



US009393131B2

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Evans et al.**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,393,131 B2**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **\*Jul. 19, 2016**

(54) **ARM PROSTHETIC DEVICE**  
(71) Applicant: **DEKA Products Limited Partnership**,  
Manchester, NH (US)  
(72) Inventors: **Christopher O. Evans**, Amherst, NH  
(US); **N. Christopher Perry**,  
Manchester, NH (US); **Dirk Albertus**  
**van der Merwe**, Canterbury, NH (US);  
**Christopher C. Langenfeld**, Nashua,  
NH (US); **John Matthew Kerwin**,  
Manchester, NH (US); **Stewart M.**  
**Coulter**, Bedford, NH (US); **Stanley B.**  
**Smith, III**, Raymond, NH (US); **Keith**  
**David Violette**, Sandown, NH (US);  
**Steven W. Nickson**, Derry, NH (US);  
**Thomas S. Schnellinger**, North  
Andover, MA (US); **Alexander H.**  
**Muller**, Manchester, NH (US); **Gerald**  
**Michael Guay**, Greenville, NH (US)

(73) Assignee: **DEKA PRODUCTS LIMITED**  
**PARTNERSHIP**, Manchester, NH (US)  
(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal dis-  
claimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/902,123**

(22) Filed: **May 24, 2013**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2013/0268095 A1 Oct. 10, 2013

#### **Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 12/706,609, filed on  
Feb. 16, 2010, now Pat. No. 8,449,624, which is a  
continuation-in-part of application No. 12/027,141,  
filed on Feb. 6, 2008, now Pat. No. 9,114,028.

(Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**A61F 2/58** (2006.01)  
**A61F 2/54** (2006.01)

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
CPC . **A61F 2/585** (2013.01); **A61F 2/54** (2013.01);  
**A61F 2/68** (2013.01); **A61F 2/581** (2013.01);

(Continued)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
CPC ..... **A61F 2/54**; **A61F 2/58**; **A61F 2/582**;  
**A61F 2/583**; **A61F 2/585**  
USPC ..... **623/57**, **61**, **62**, **63**, **64**; **901/11**, **12**, **27**,  
**901/28**, **29**  
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

#### **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

975,029 A \* 11/1910 Galvin ..... 623/61  
3,779,654 A \* 12/1973 Home ..... 403/62

(Continued)

#### **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EP 1916561 A2 4/2008  
EP 2112740 A2 10/2009  
WO 2011036473 A1 3/2011

#### **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

Partial International Search Report from corresponding international  
appln. No. PCT/US2013/039081 dated Aug. 29, 2013 (6 pages).

(Continued)

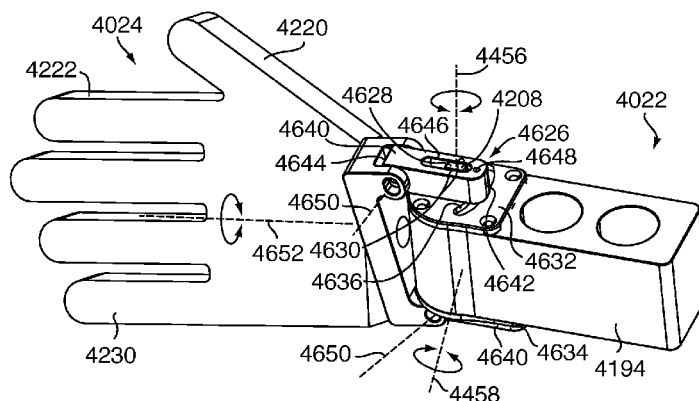
*Primary Examiner* — Marcia Watkins

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — McCormick, Paulding &  
Huber LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A prosthetic arm apparatus including a plurality of segments  
that provide a user of the prosthetic arm apparatus with sub-  
stantially the same movement capability and function as a  
human arm. The segments are connectable to one another and  
connectable to a prosthetic support apparatus that may be  
adorned by the user. Each segment of the plurality of seg-  
ments provides a portion of the movement capability,  
enabling the plurality of connected segments connected to the  
harness mount to provide substantially the same movement  
capability as that lacking in the user.

**24 Claims, 60 Drawing Sheets**



**Related U.S. Application Data**

- (60) Provisional application No. 61/168,786, filed on Apr. 13, 2009, provisional application No. 60/963,639, filed on Aug. 6, 2007, provisional application No. 60/899,833, filed on Feb. 6, 2007.

(51) **Int. Cl.**

*A61F 2/68* (2006.01)  
*A61F 2/30* (2006.01)  
*A61F 2/50* (2006.01)  
*A61F 2/70* (2006.01)  
*A61F 2/76* (2006.01)  
*A61F 2/78* (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ..... *A61F 2/582* (2013.01); *A61F 2/586* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/30464* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/5001* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/5061* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/5083* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/587* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/689* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/6827* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/6836* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/6845* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/6854* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/701* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/764* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/769* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/7625* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/7635* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/7645* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/7862* (2013.01); *A61F 2220/0075* (2013.01)

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,987,498 A 10/1976 Mason

4,030,141 A	6/1977	Graupe	
4,209,860 A	7/1980	Graupe	
4,521,924 A	6/1985	Jacobsen et al.	
4,628,765 A *	12/1986	Dien et al. ....	74/665 A
4,743,264 A	5/1988	Sherva-Parker	
4,842,608 A	6/1989	Marx et al.	
5,336,269 A	8/1994	Smits	
5,611,774 A *	3/1997	Postelmans .....	602/16
6,171,239 B1	1/2001	Humphrey	
6,361,570 B1	3/2002	Gow	
7,186,270 B2	3/2007	Elkins	
7,837,474 B1	11/2010	Nuccio-Youngs	
8,257,090 B1	9/2012	Nuccio-Youngs	
8,453,340 B2	6/2013	Van der Merwe et al.	
8,821,587 B2	9/2014	Lanier et al.	
2002/0099450 A1	7/2002	Dean, Jr. et al.	
2004/0054423 A1 *	3/2004	Martin .....	623/25
2006/0189899 A1	8/2006	Flaherty et al.	
2006/0282175 A1	12/2006	Haines et al.	
2007/0191965 A1	8/2007	Colvin et al.	
2008/0243266 A1	10/2008	Haynes et al.	
2009/0038421 A1 *	2/2009	Wilson et al. ....	74/33
2010/0036455 A1	2/2010	Sanders et al.	
2011/0247321 A1	10/2011	Streeter et al.	
2012/0123558 A1	5/2012	Gill	

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

International Search Report and Written Opinion from corresponding International Appln. No. PCT/US2013/039081 dated Oct. 29, 2013 (15 pages).

Lake, et al., Evolution of Microprocessor Based Control Systems in Upper Extremity Prosthetics, Technology and Disability IOS Press, vol. 15 (2003), pp. 63-71 (6 pages).

\* cited by examiner

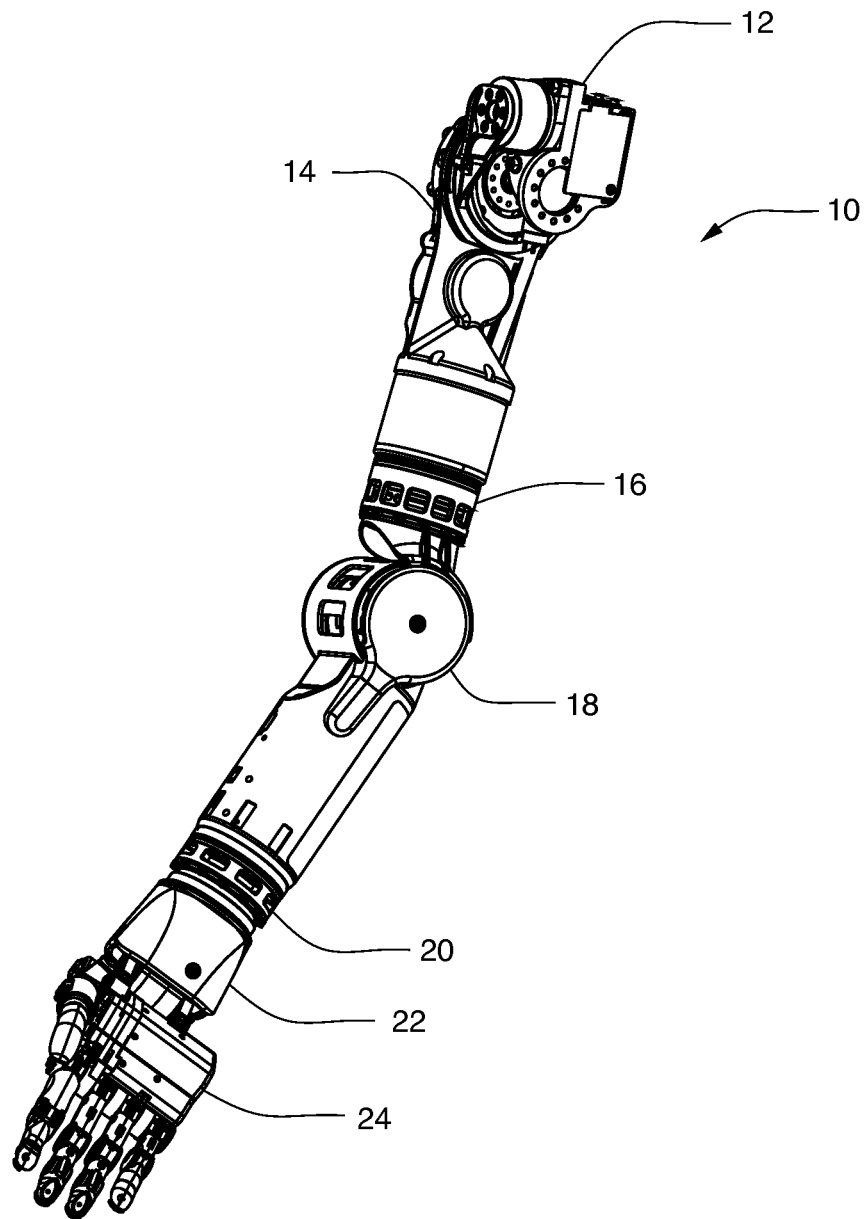


FIG. 1

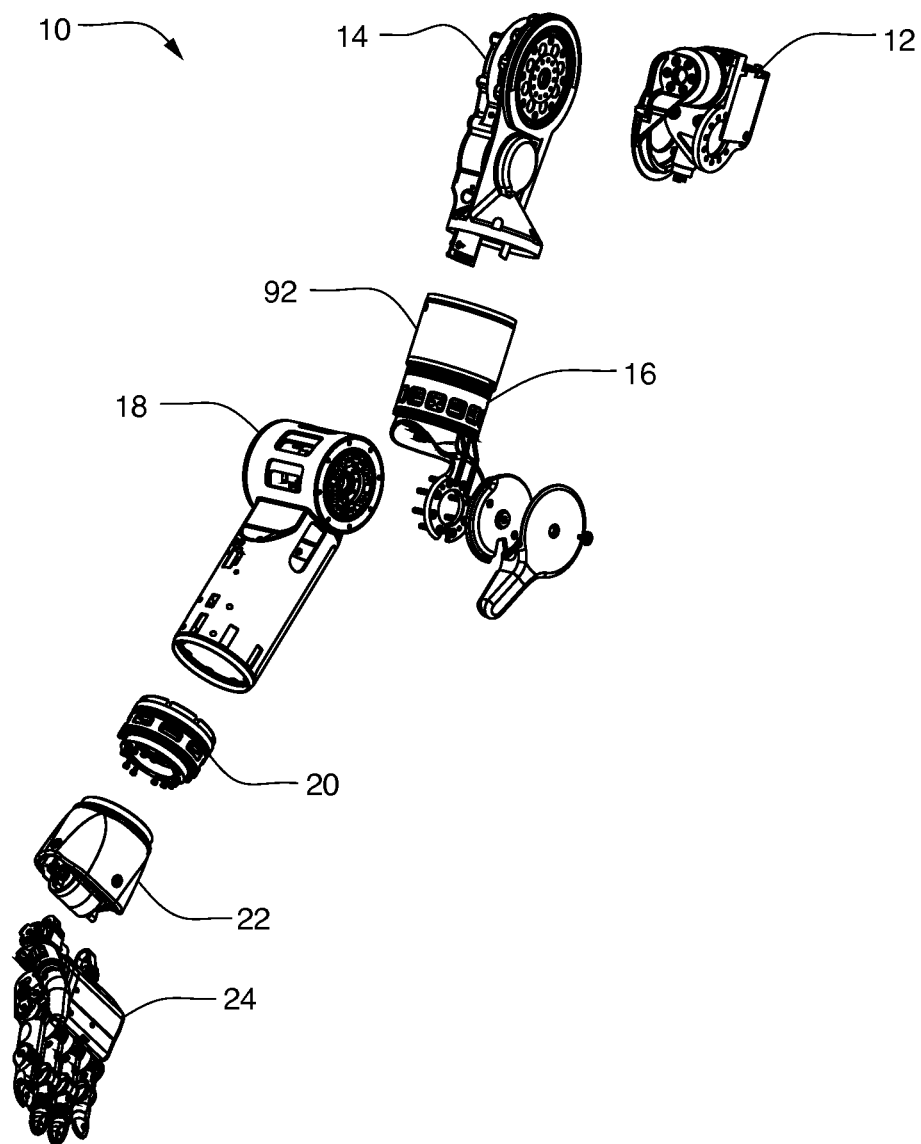


FIG. 2

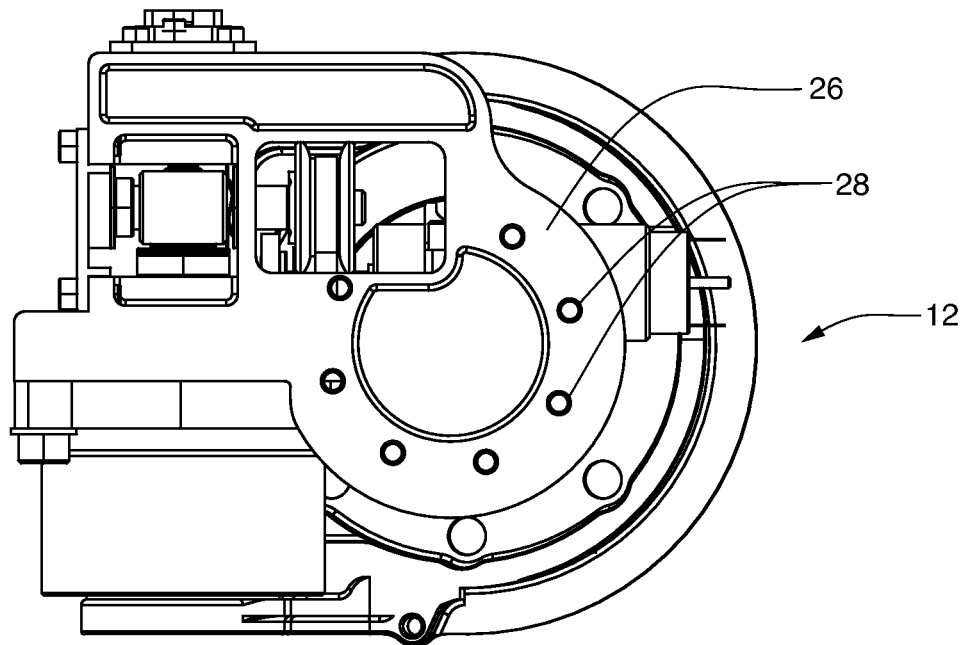


FIG. 3

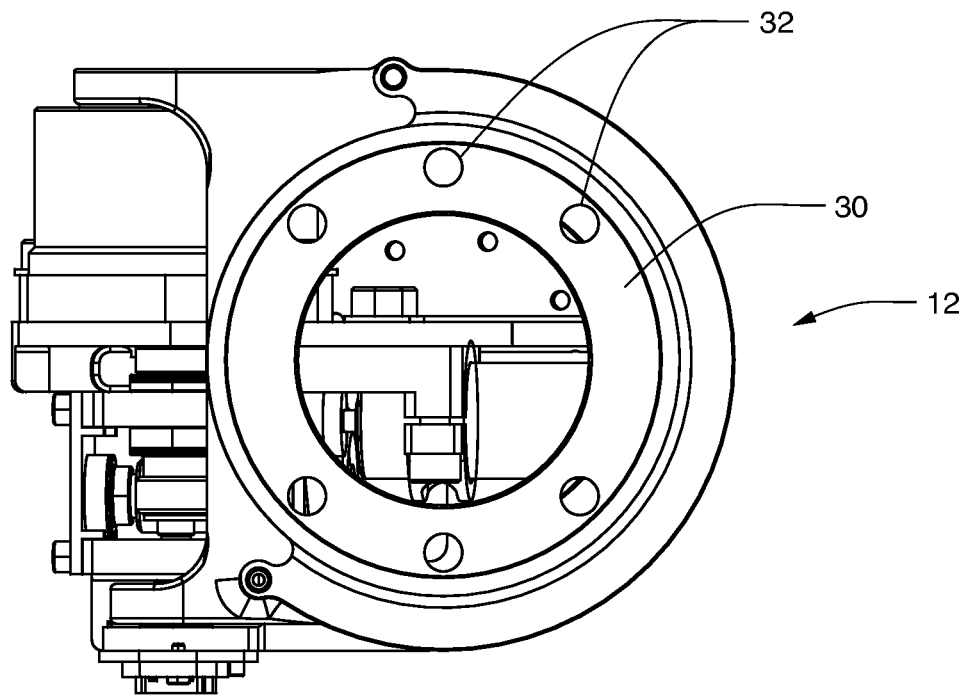


FIG. 4

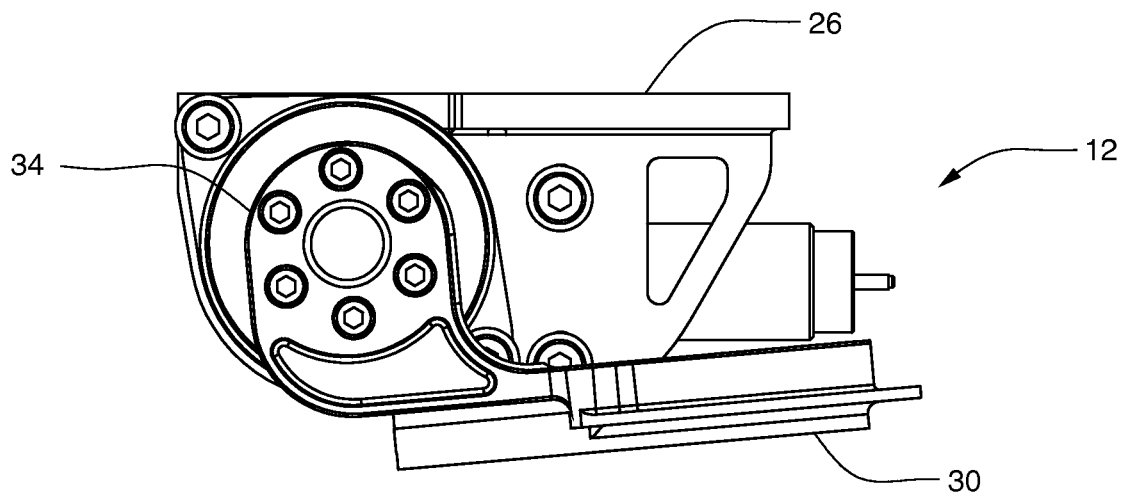


FIG. 5

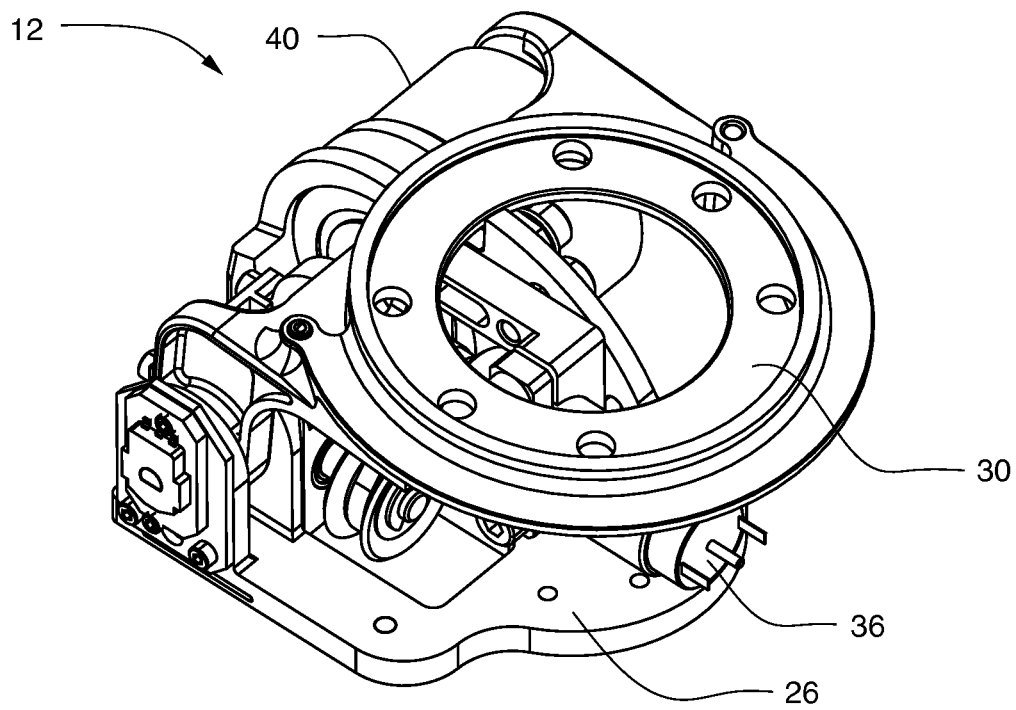


FIG. 6

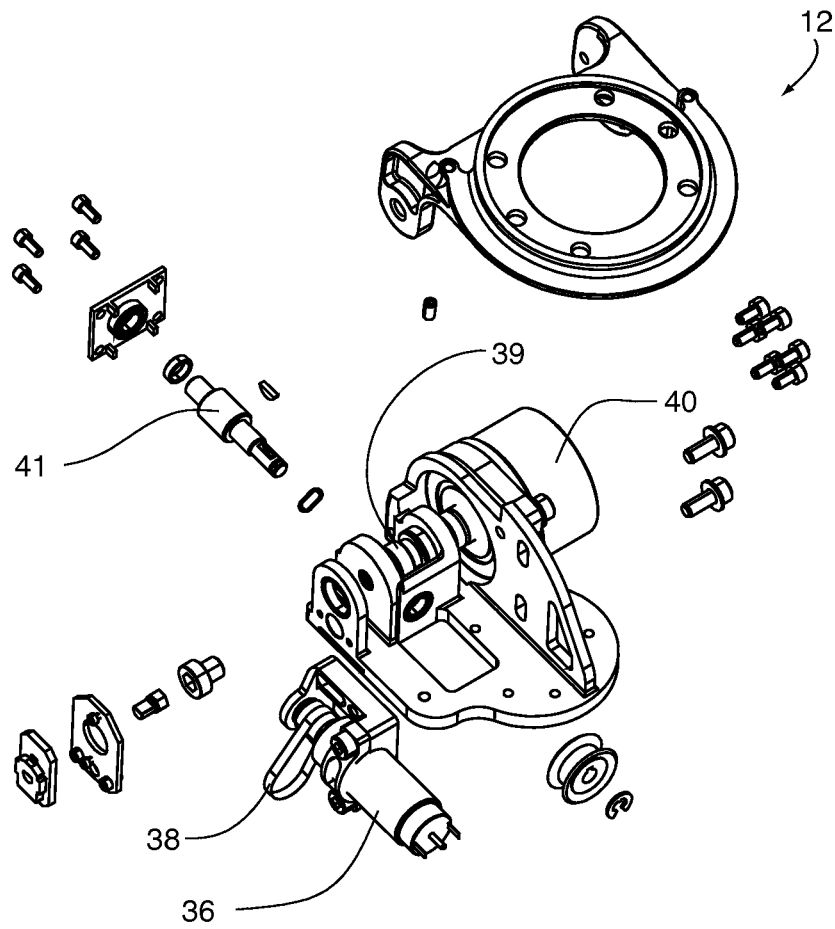


FIG. 7

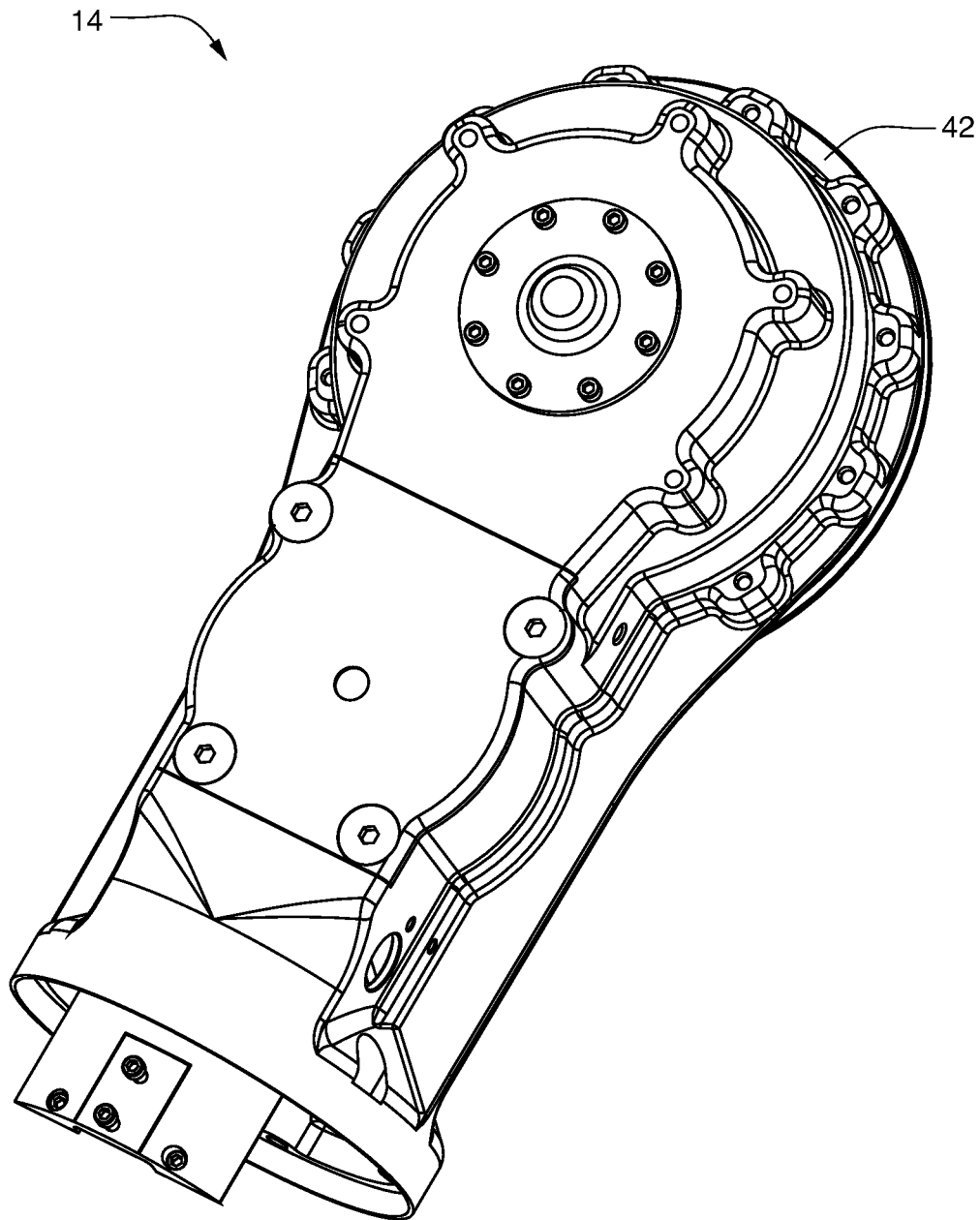


FIG. 8

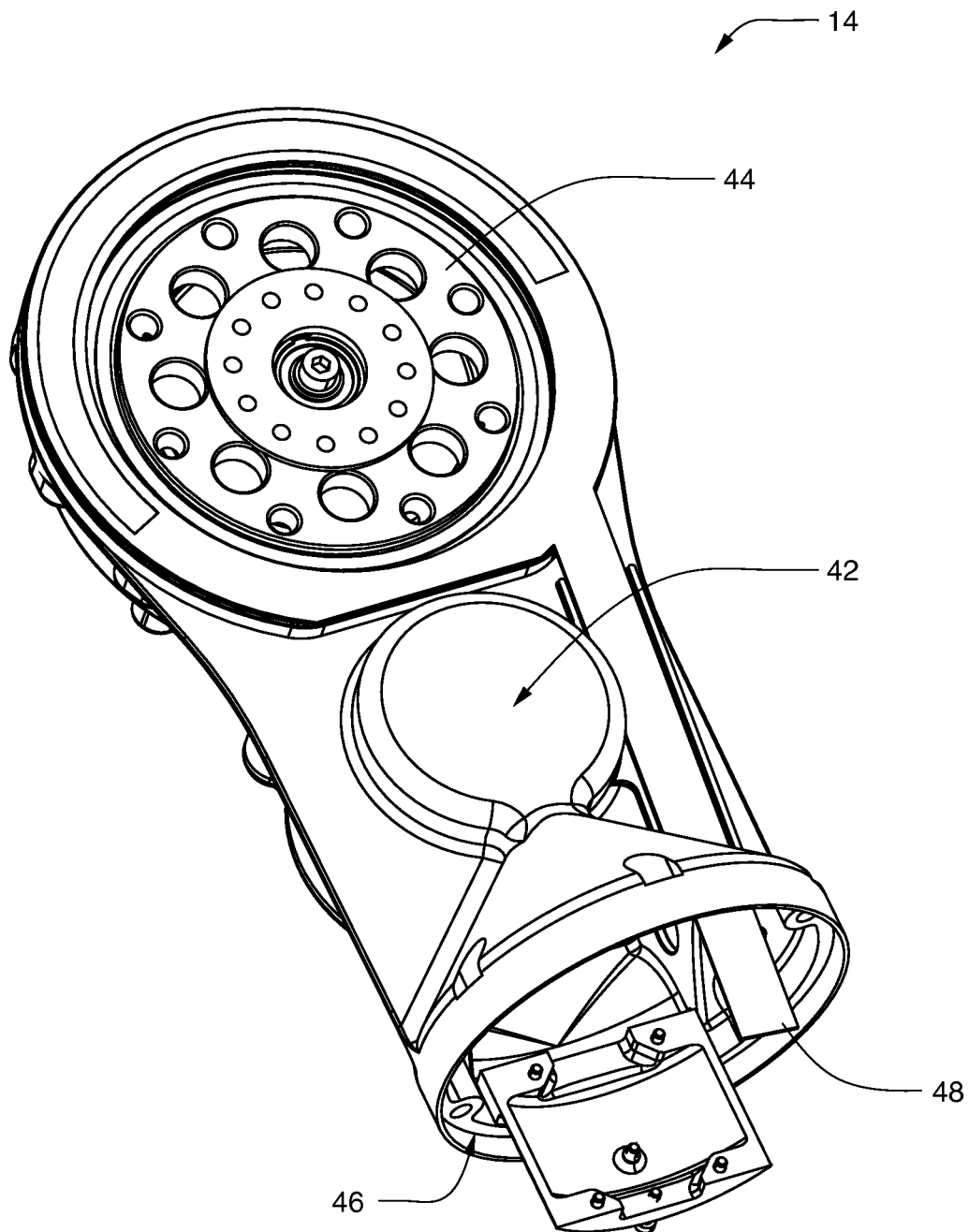


FIG. 9

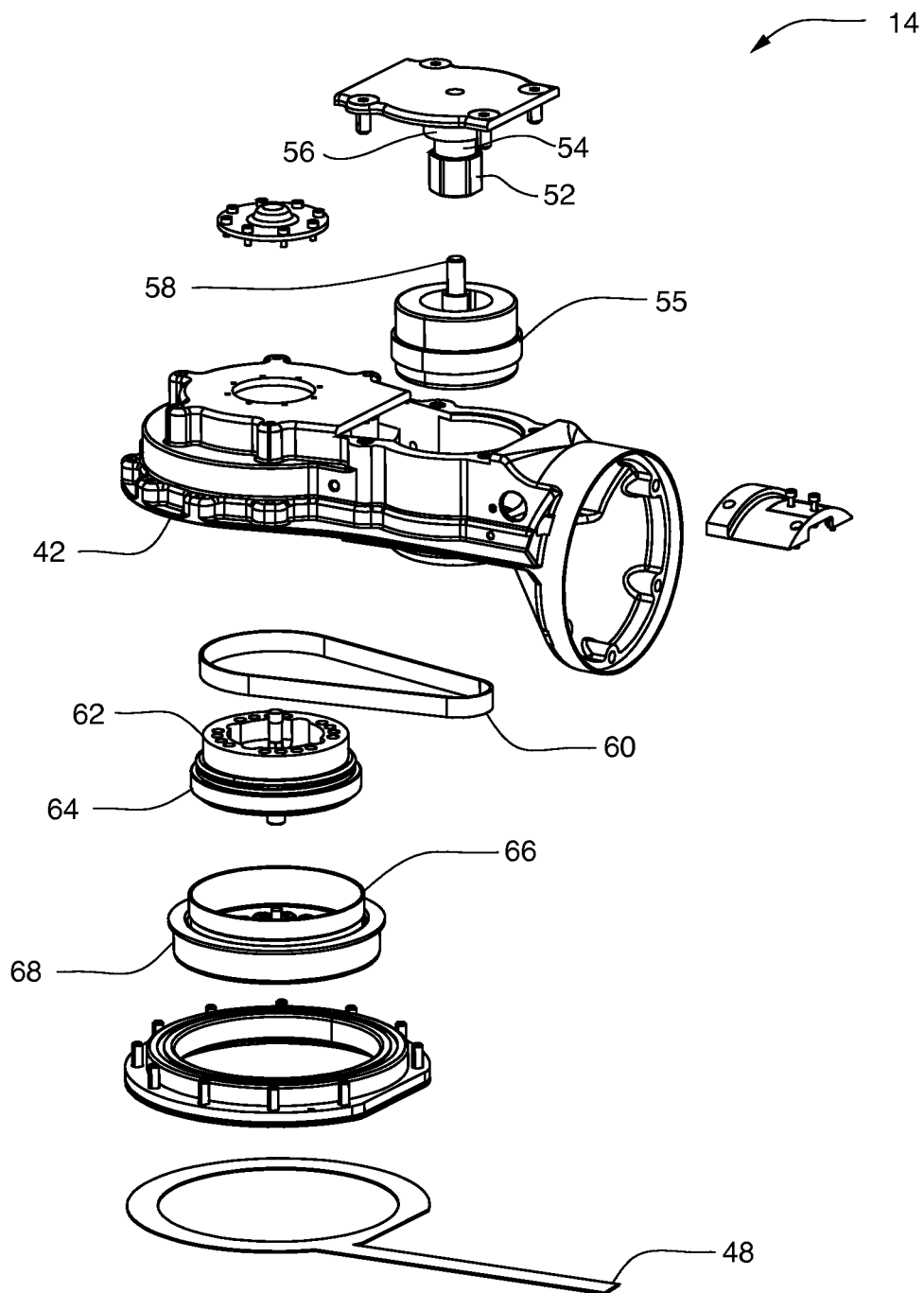


FIG. 10

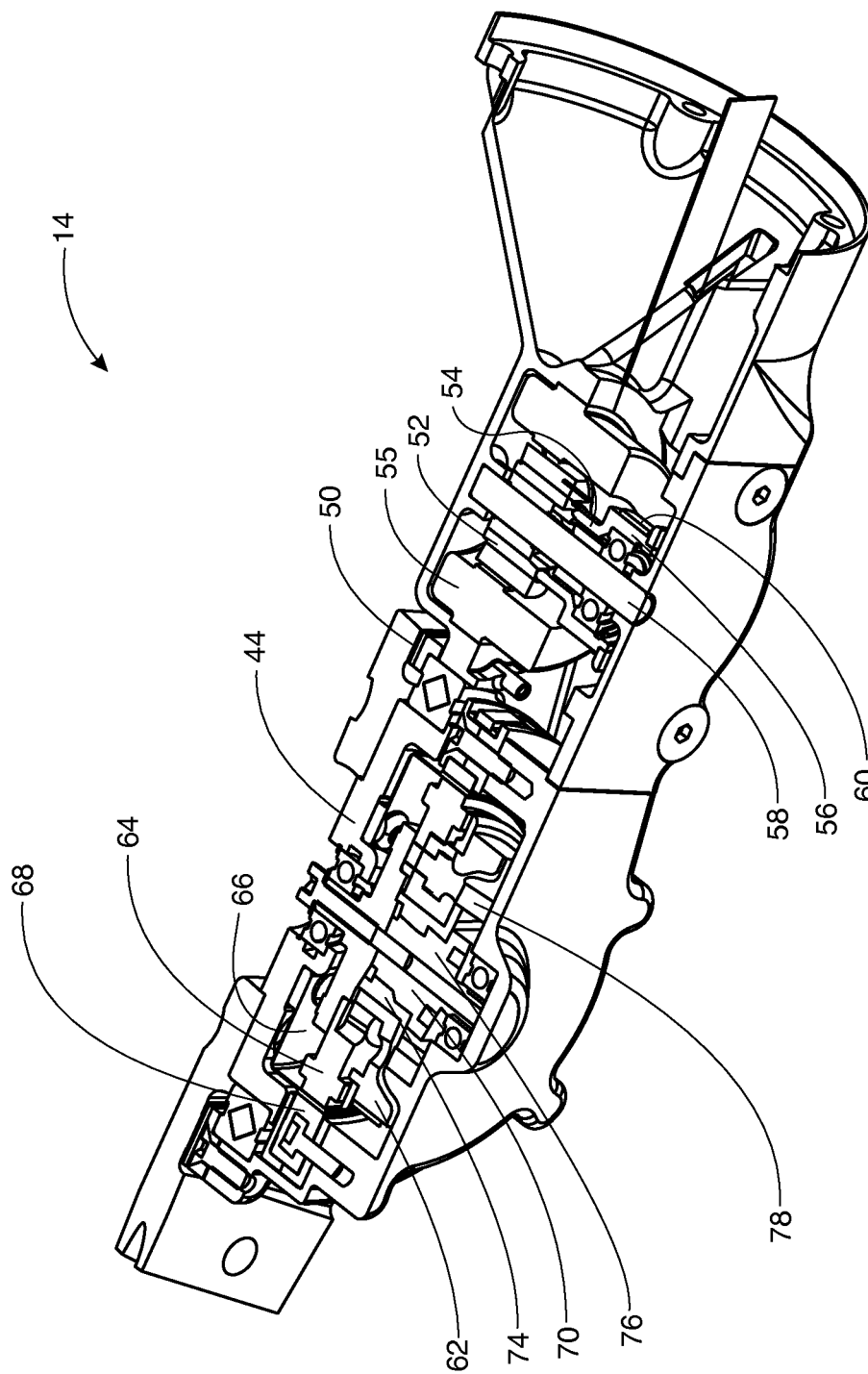


FIG. 11

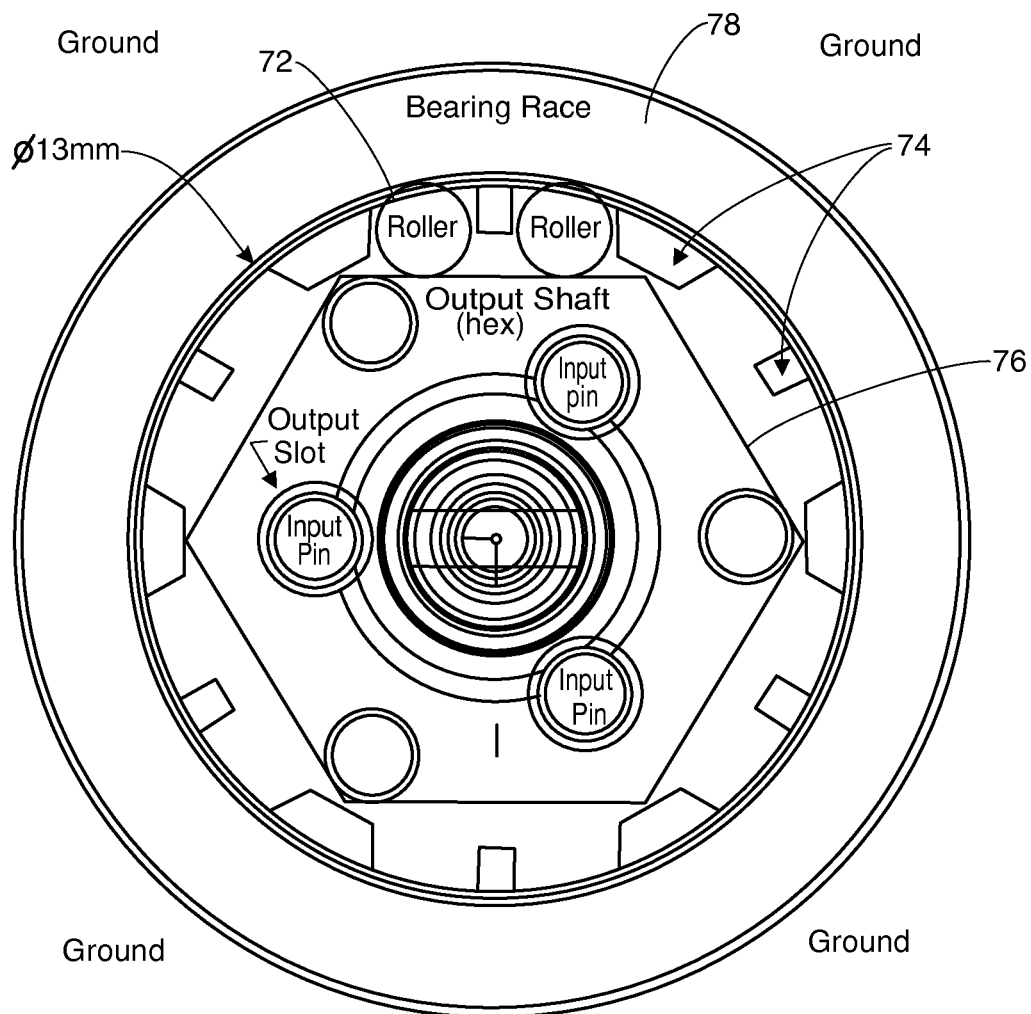


FIG. 12

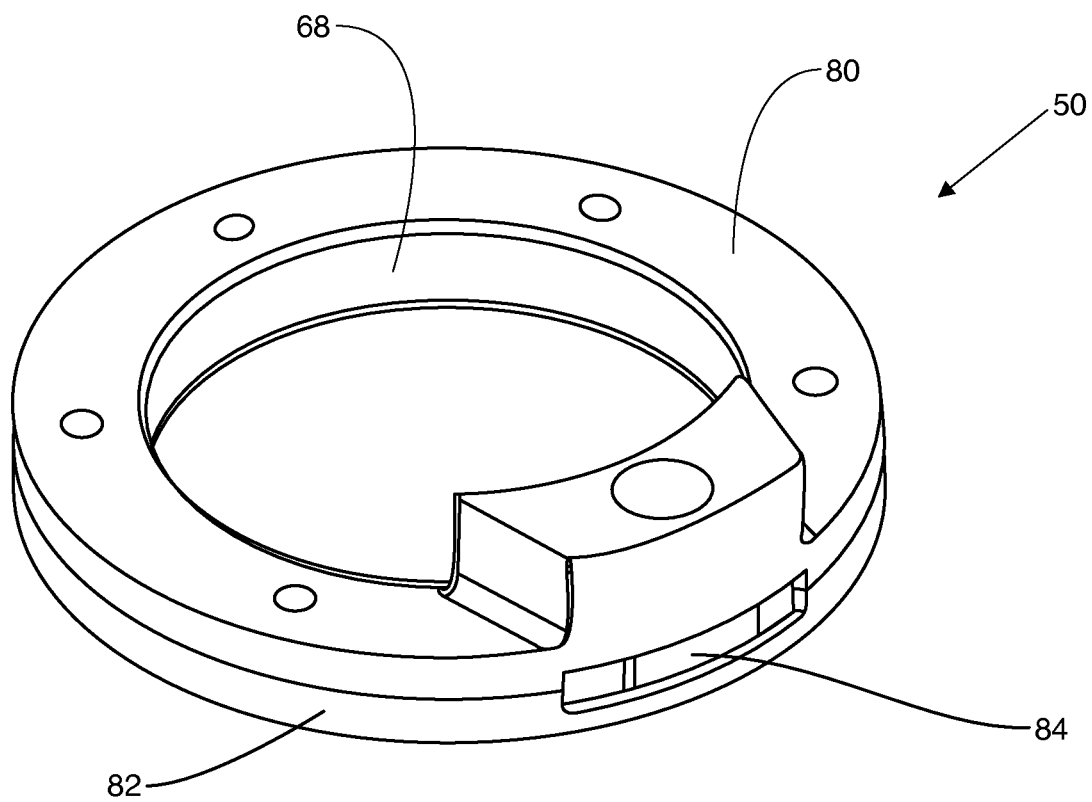


FIG.13

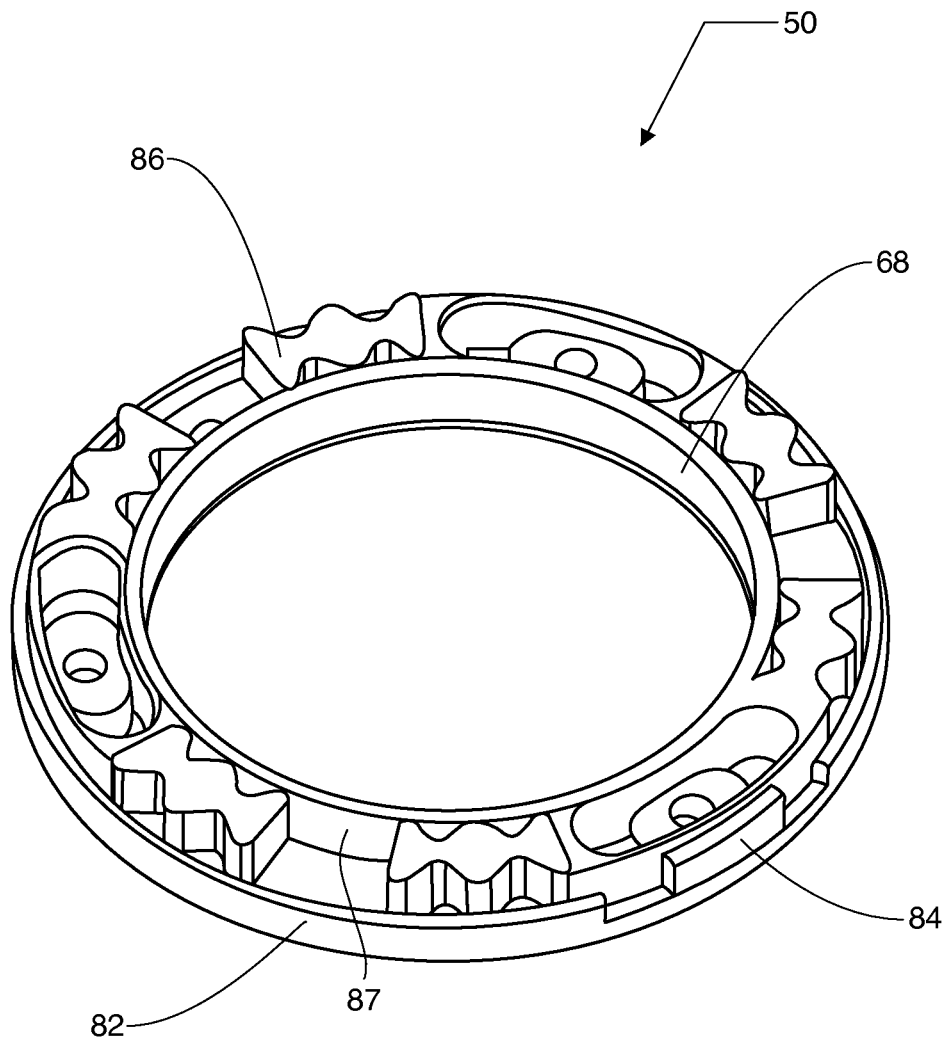


FIG.14

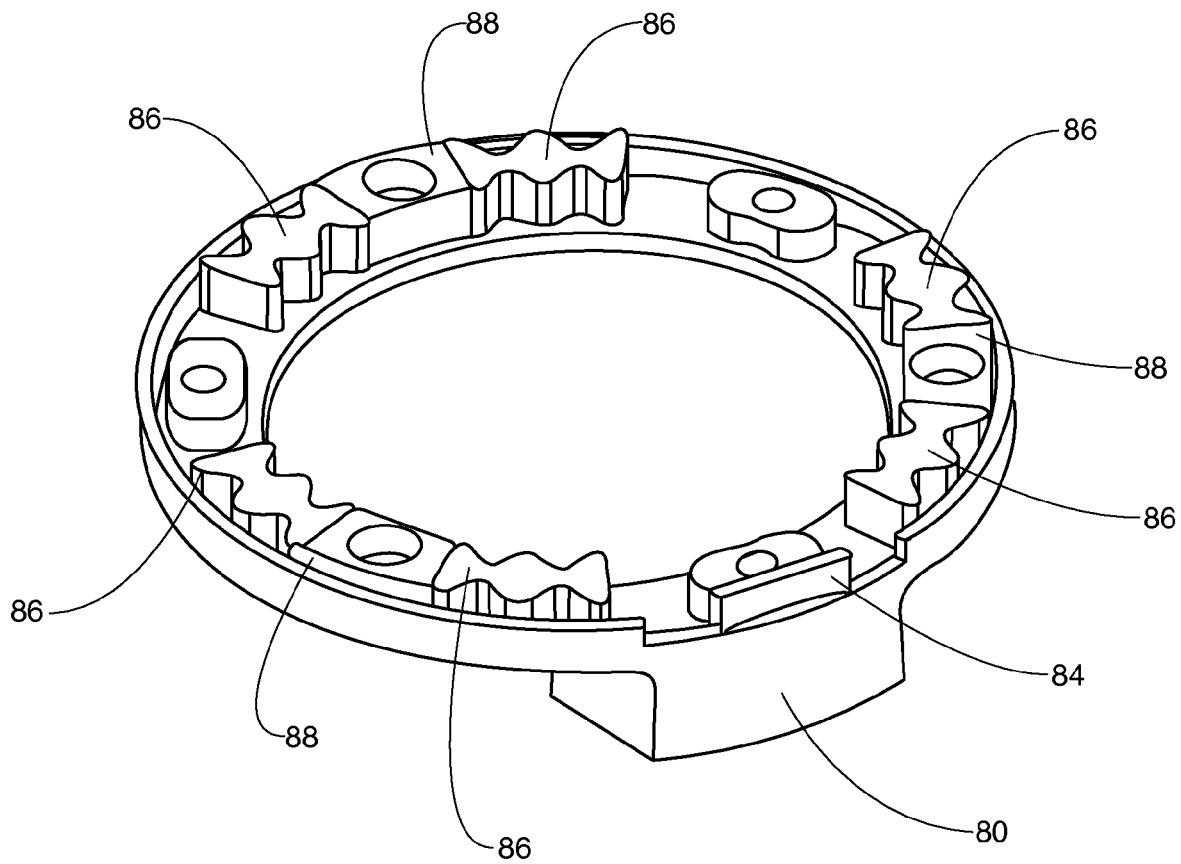


FIG. 15

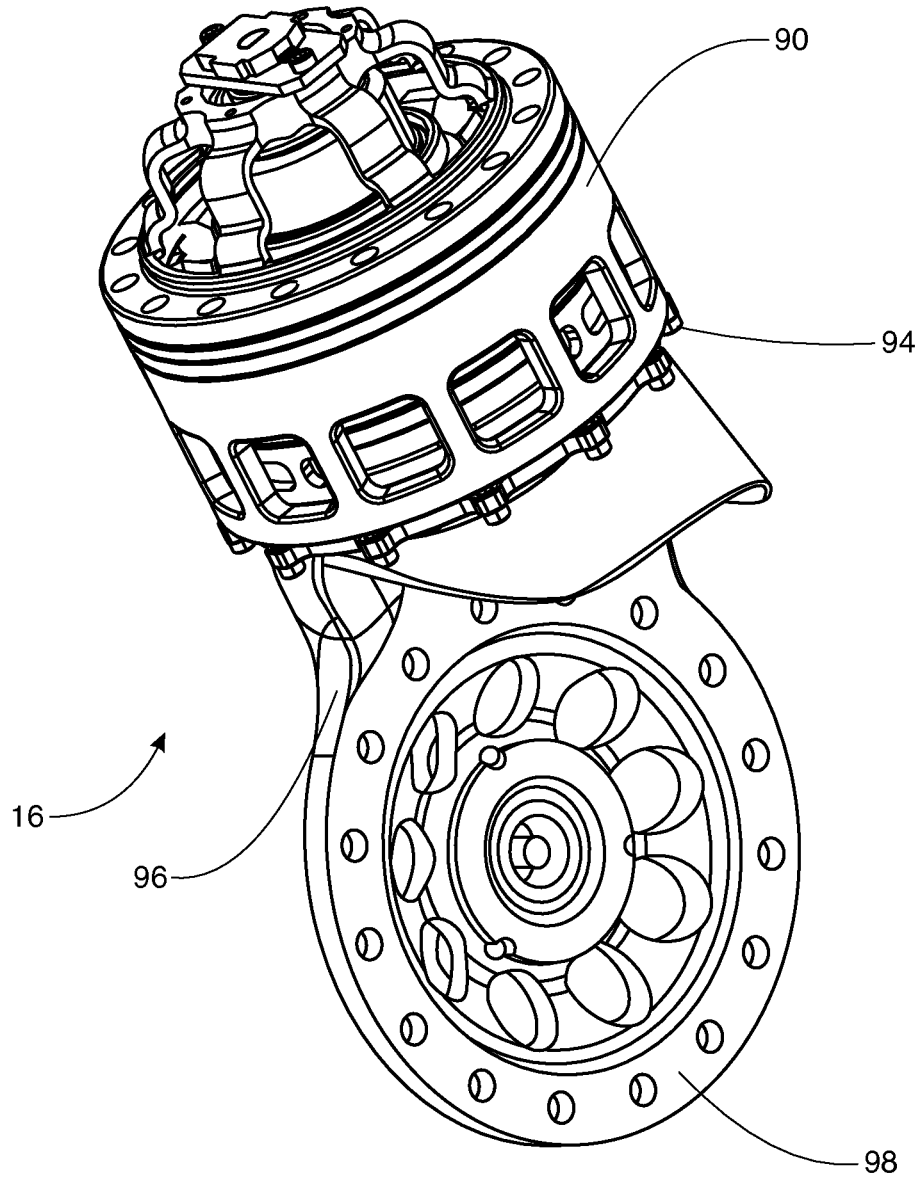


FIG. 16

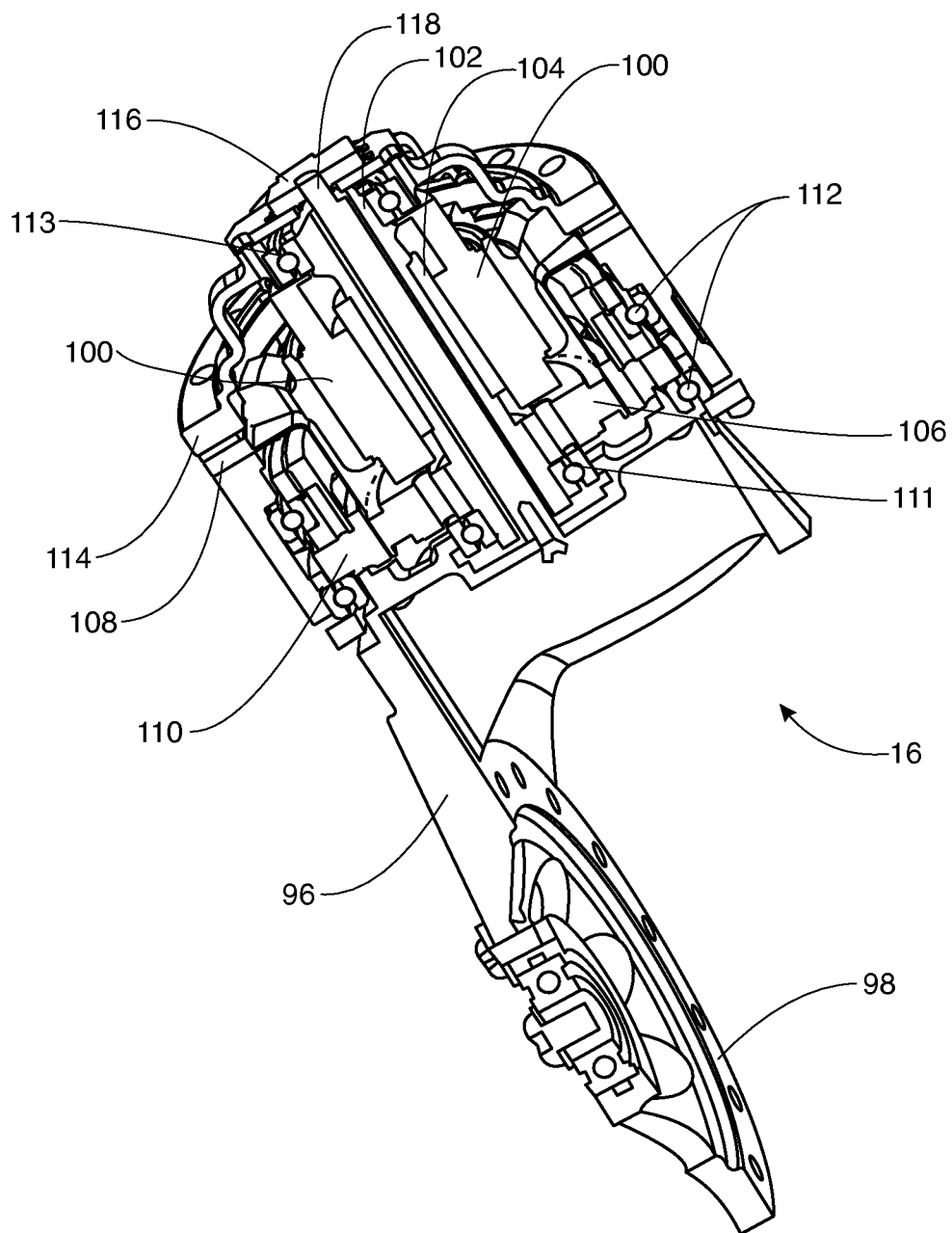


FIG. 17

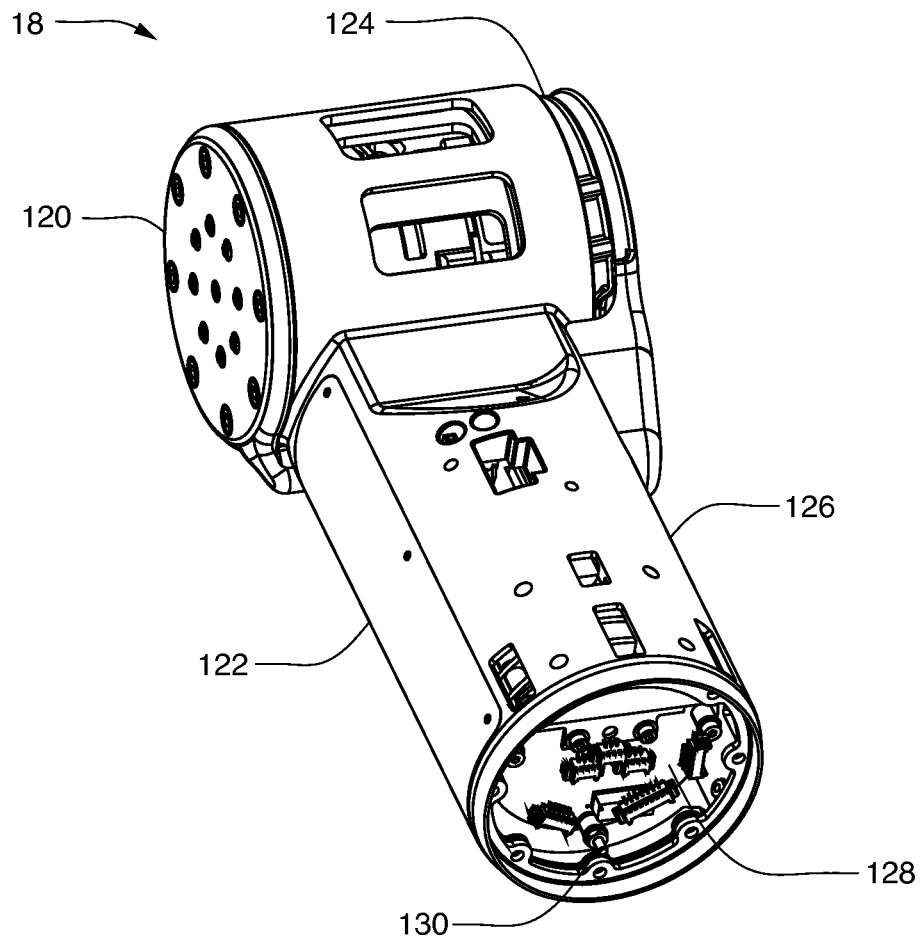


FIG. 18

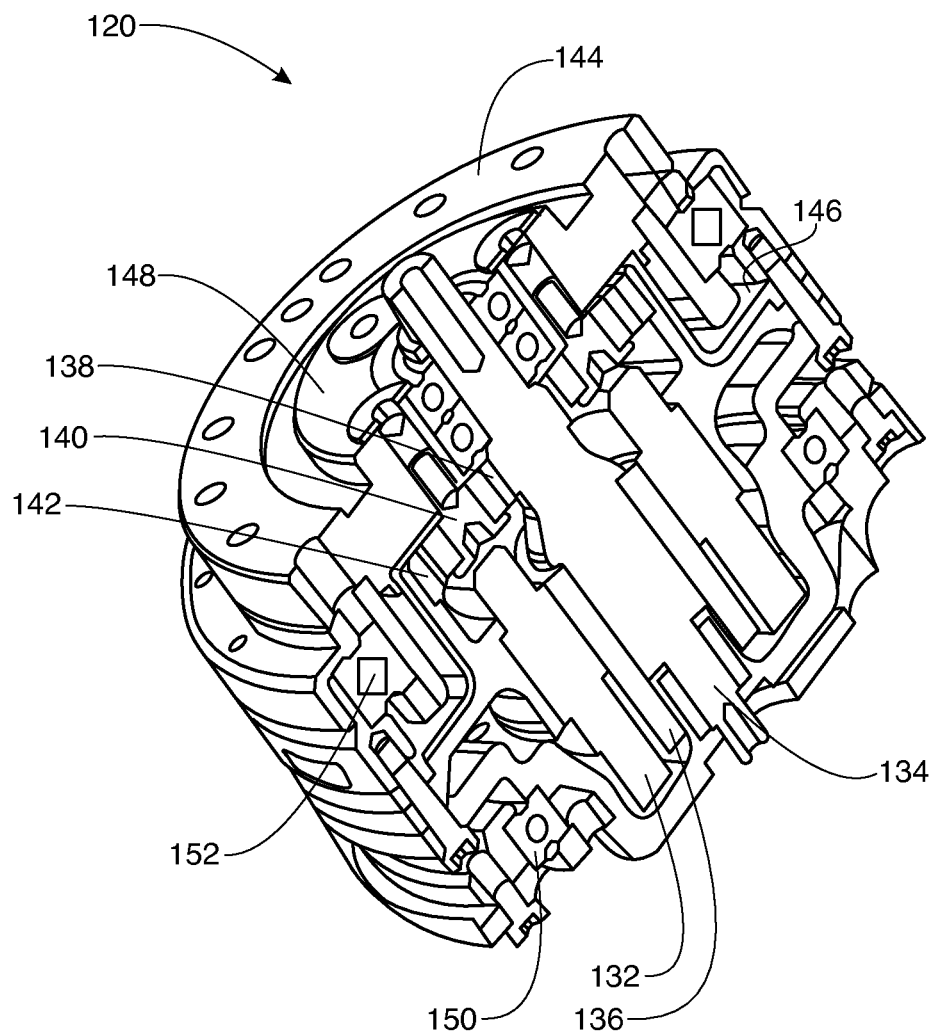


FIG. 19

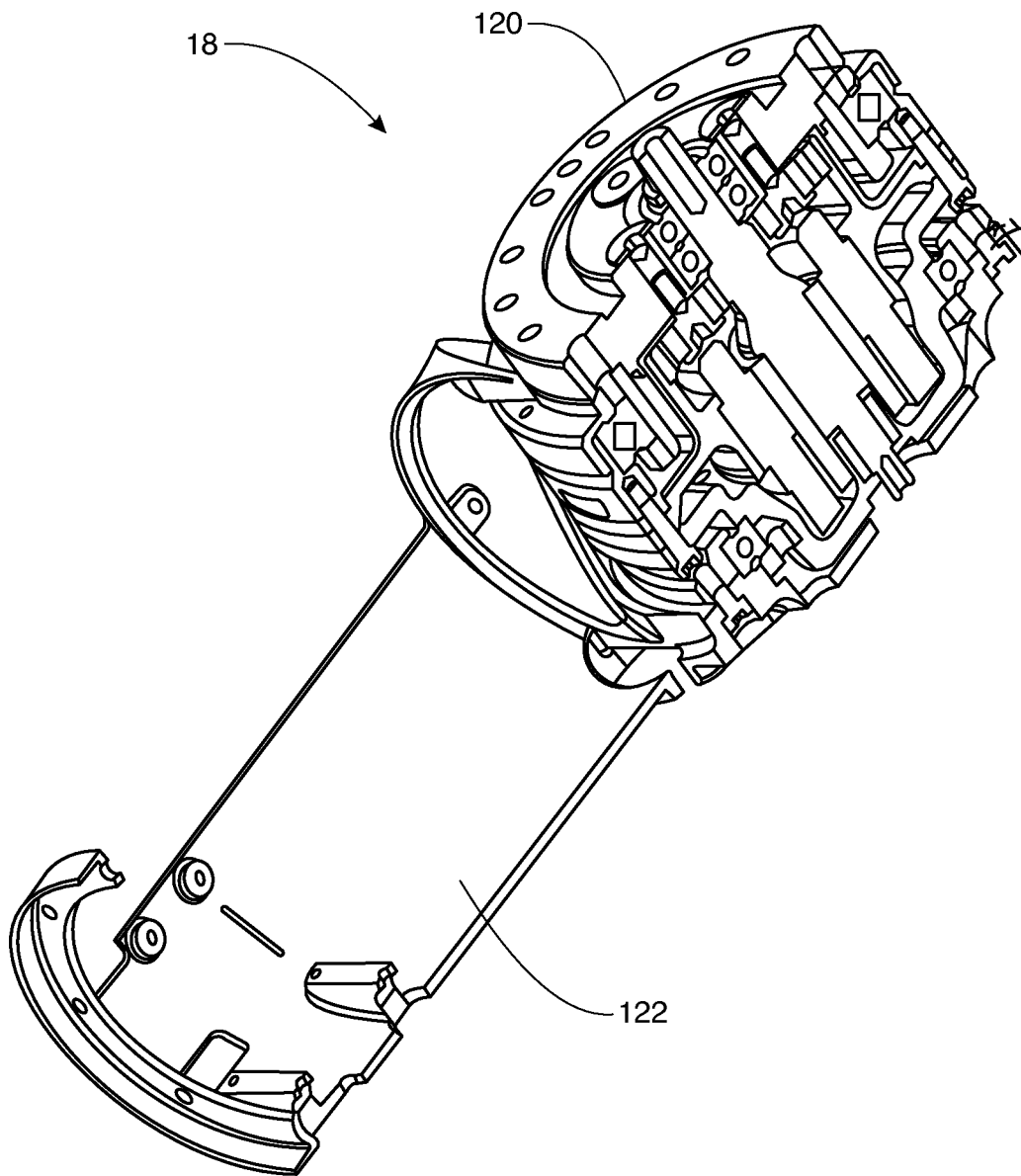


FIG. 20

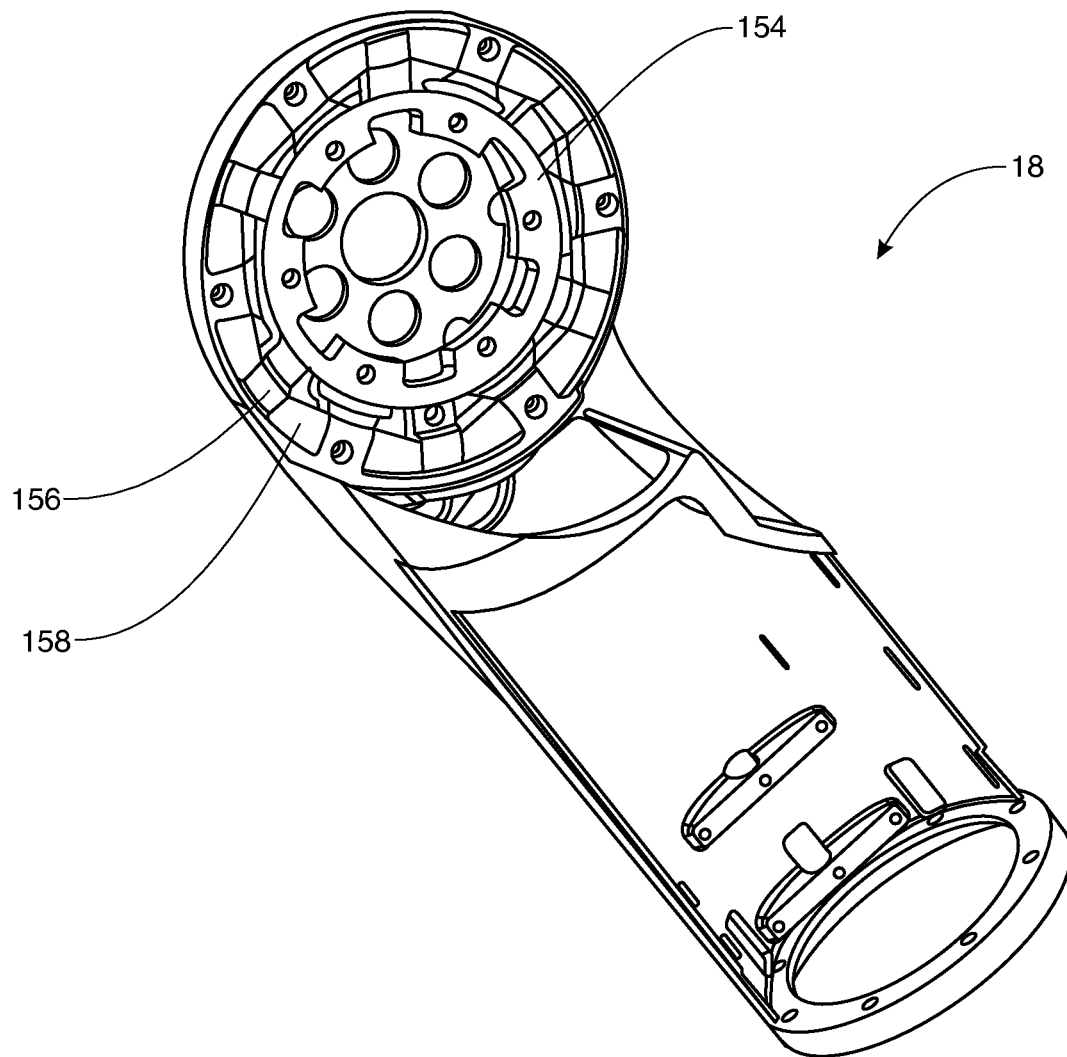


FIG. 21

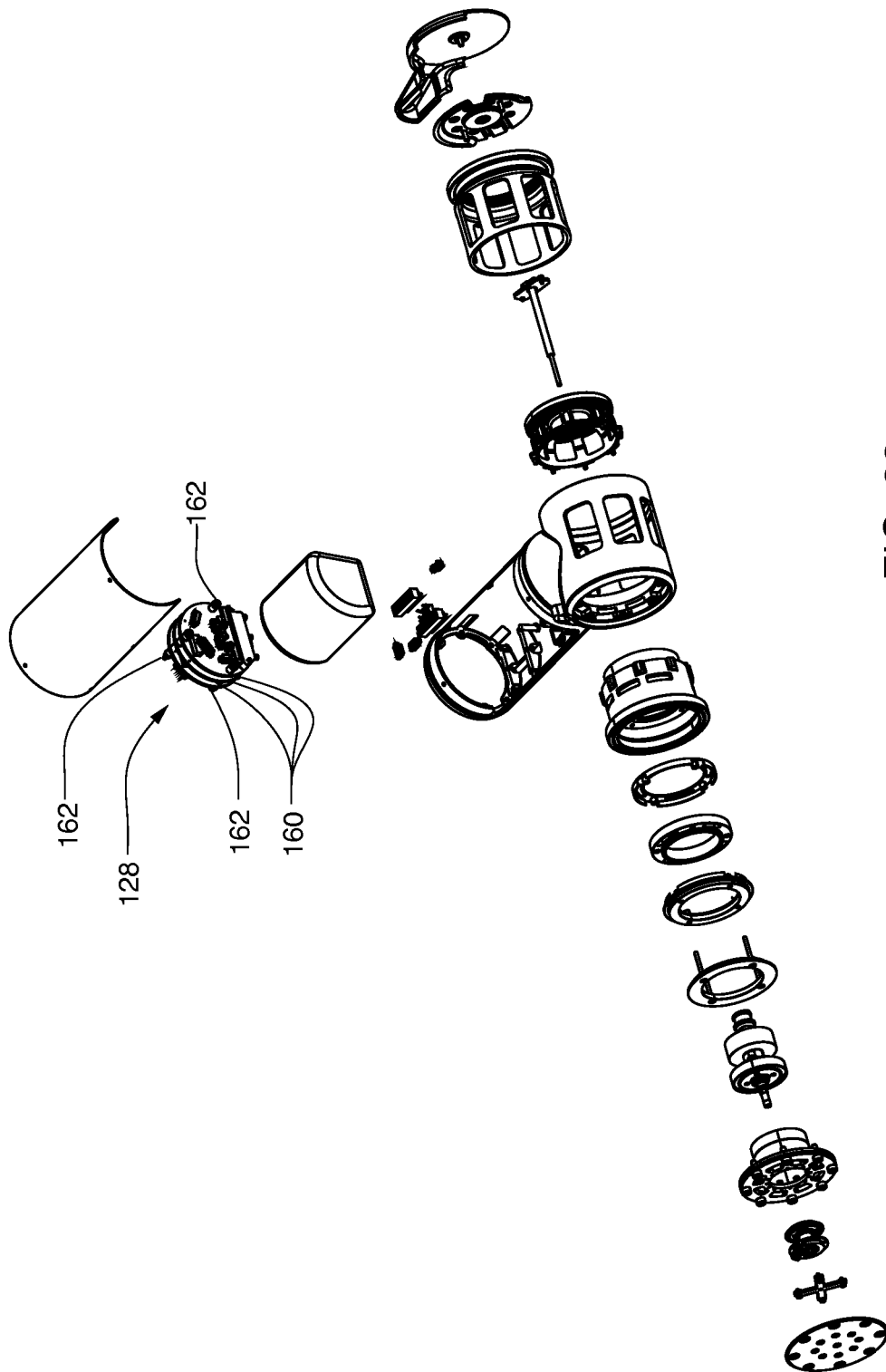


FIG. 22

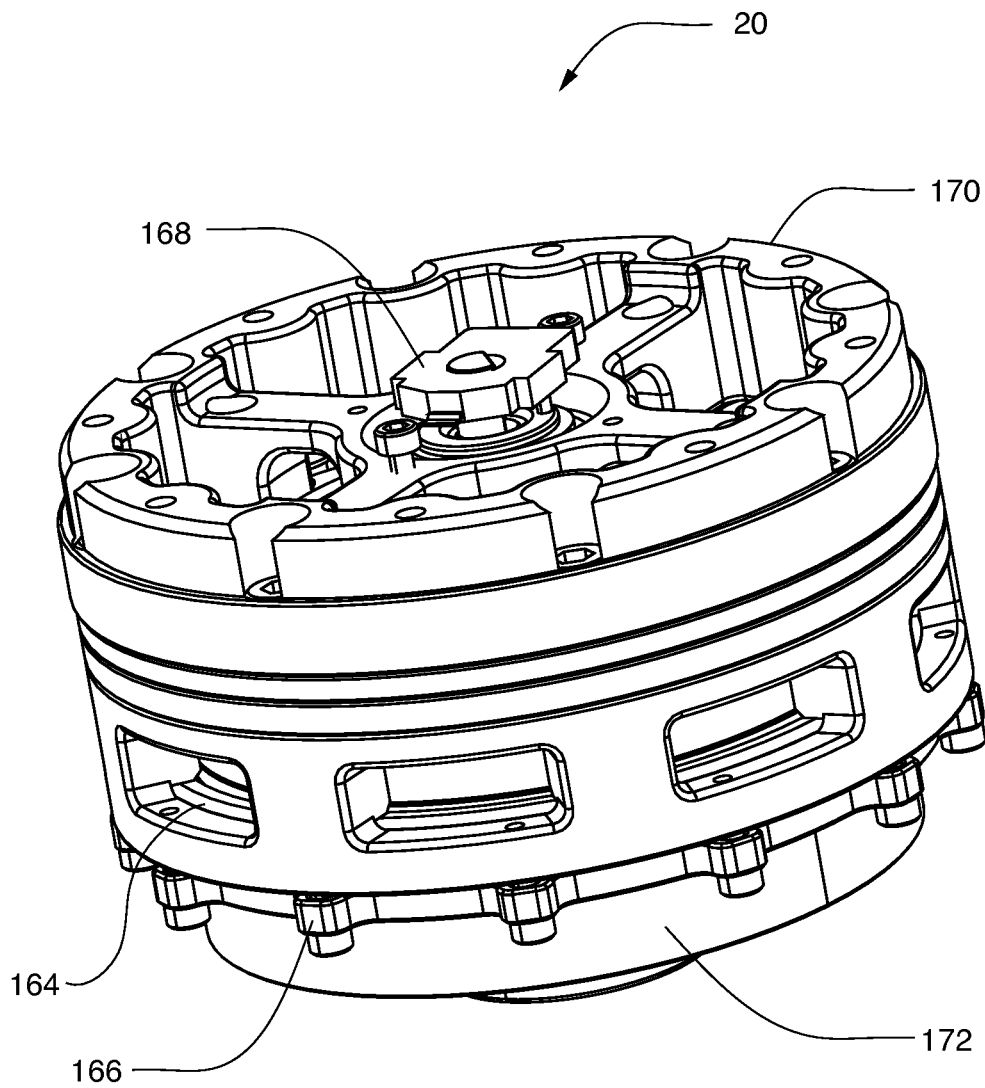


FIG. 23

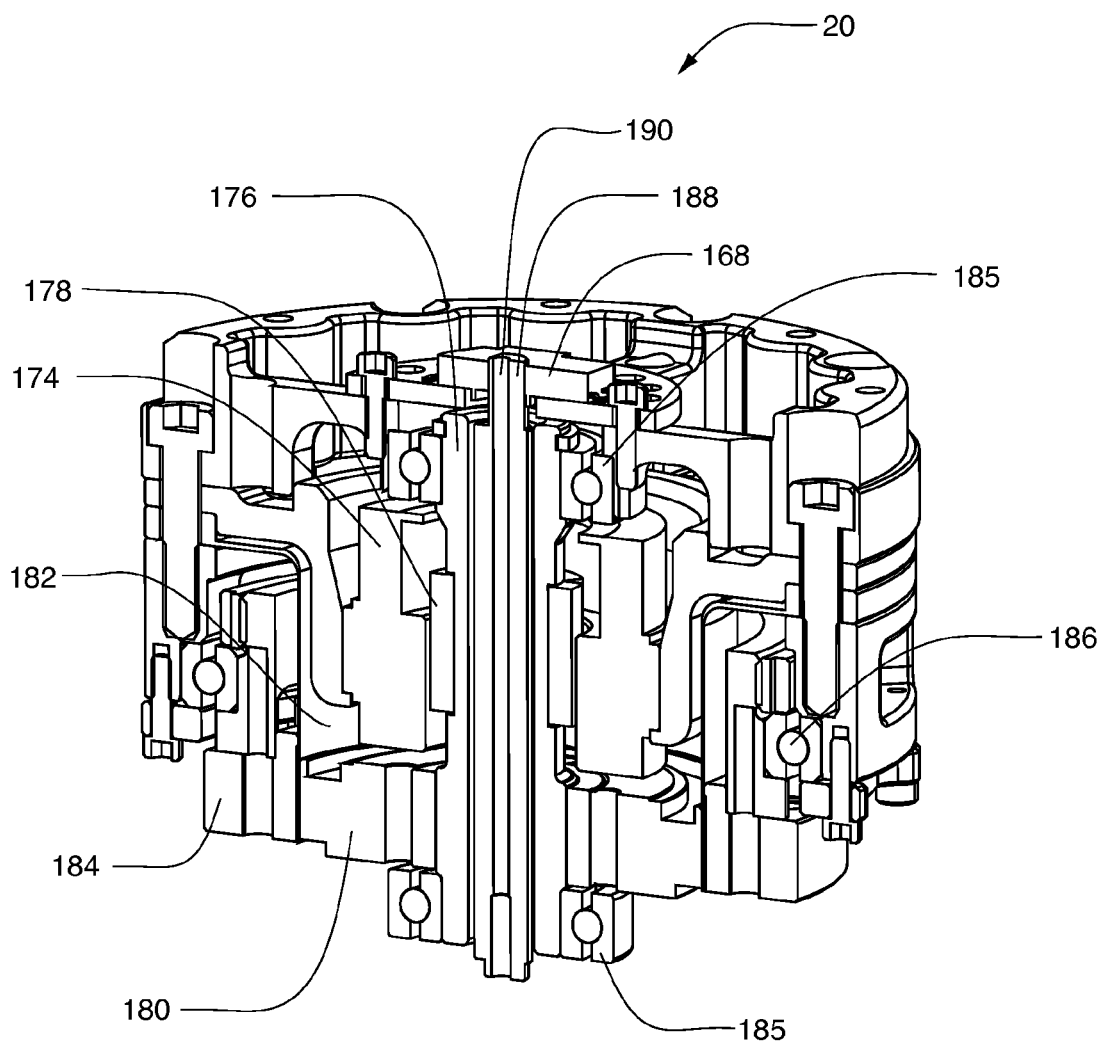


FIG. 24

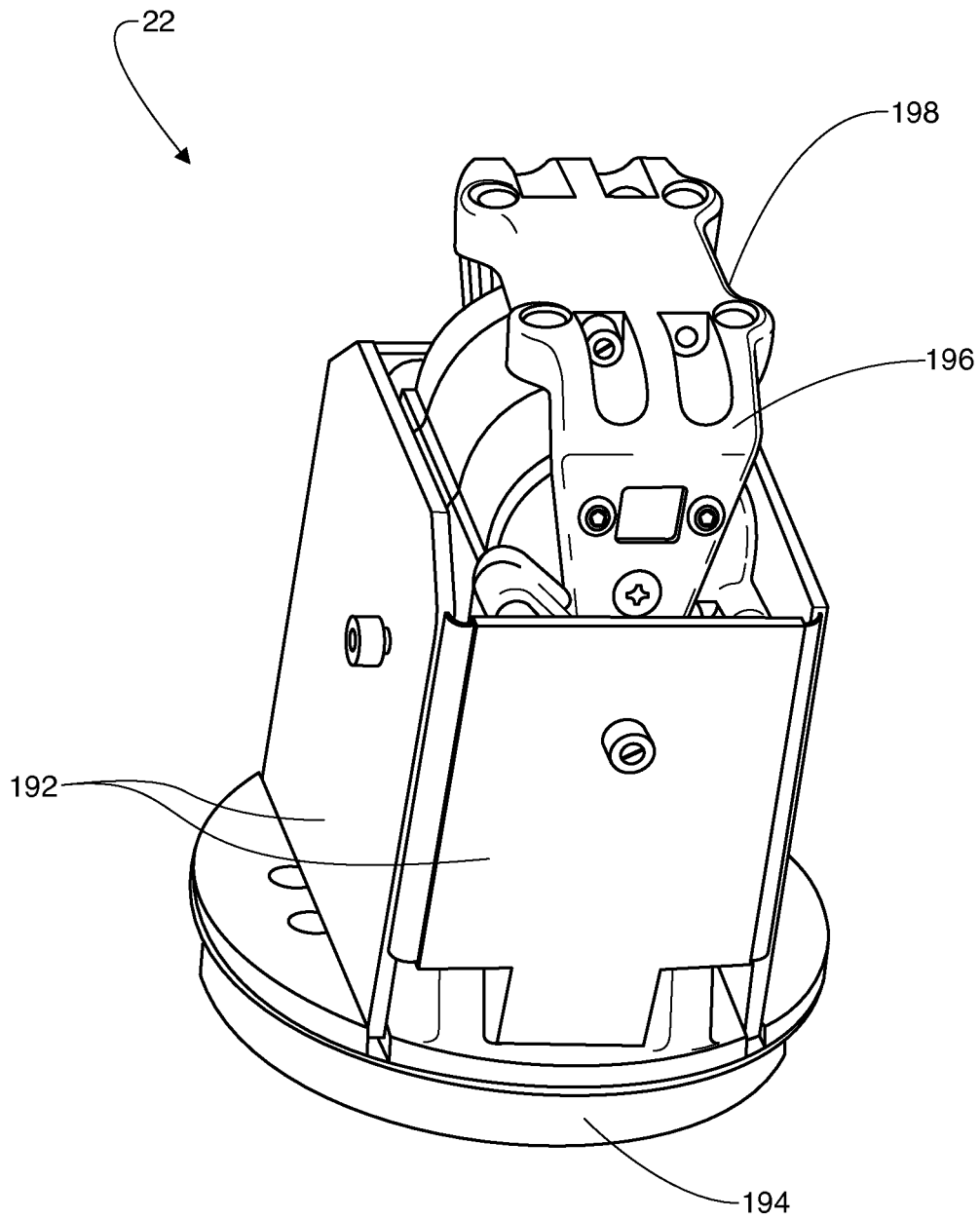


FIG. 25

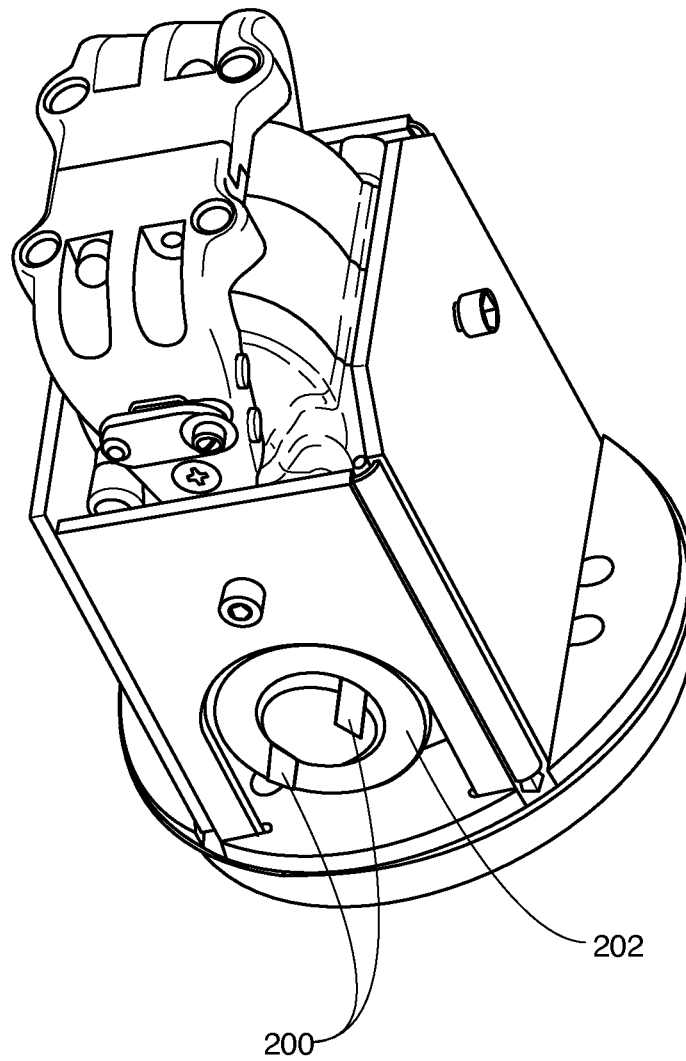


FIG. 26

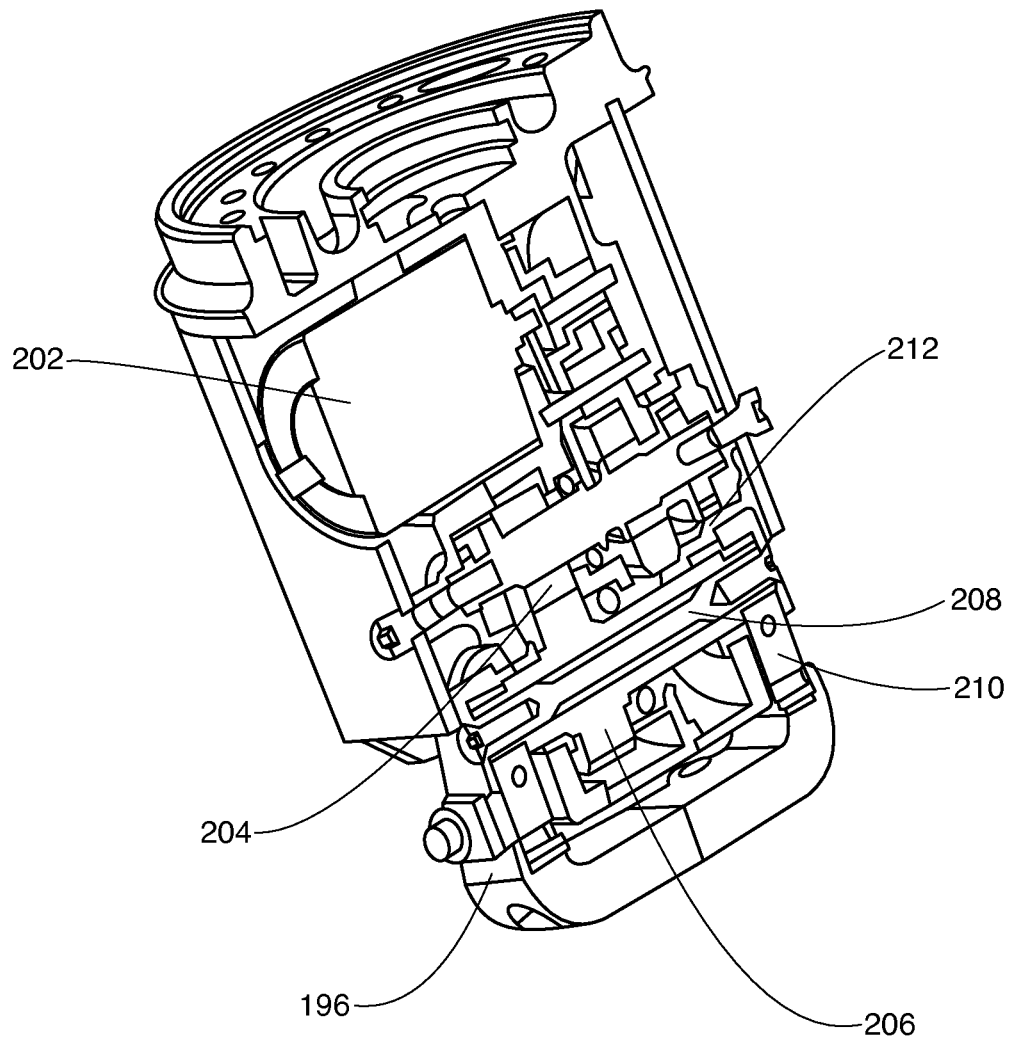


FIG. 27

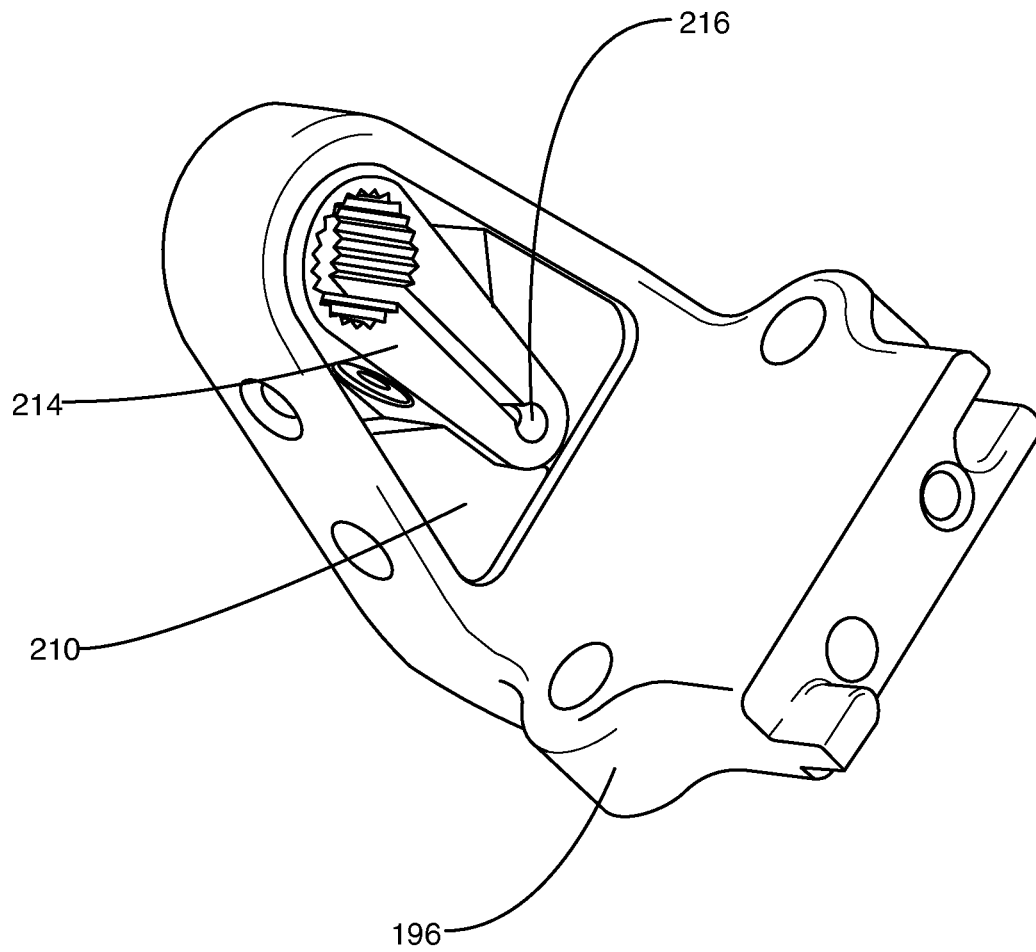


FIG. 28

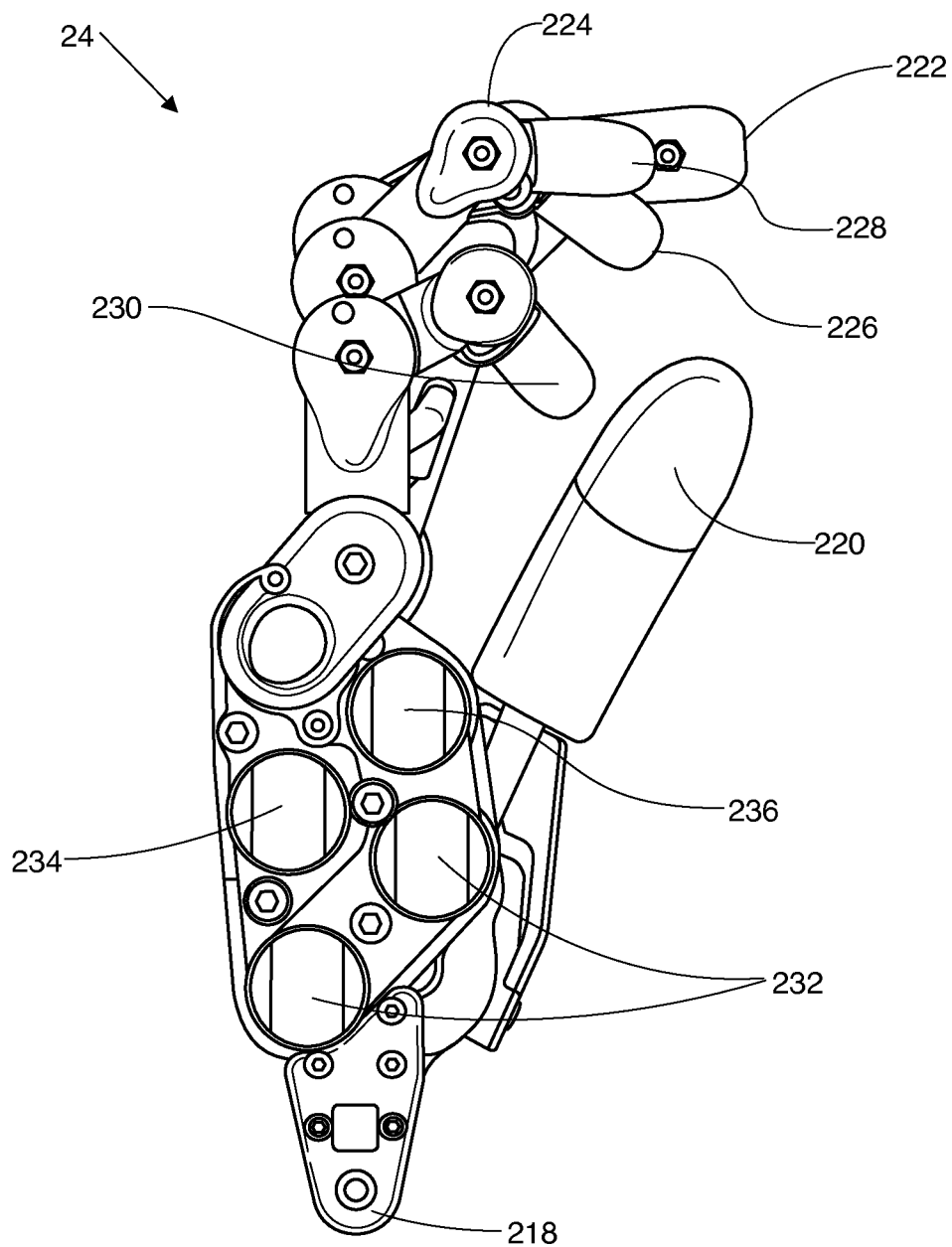


FIG. 29

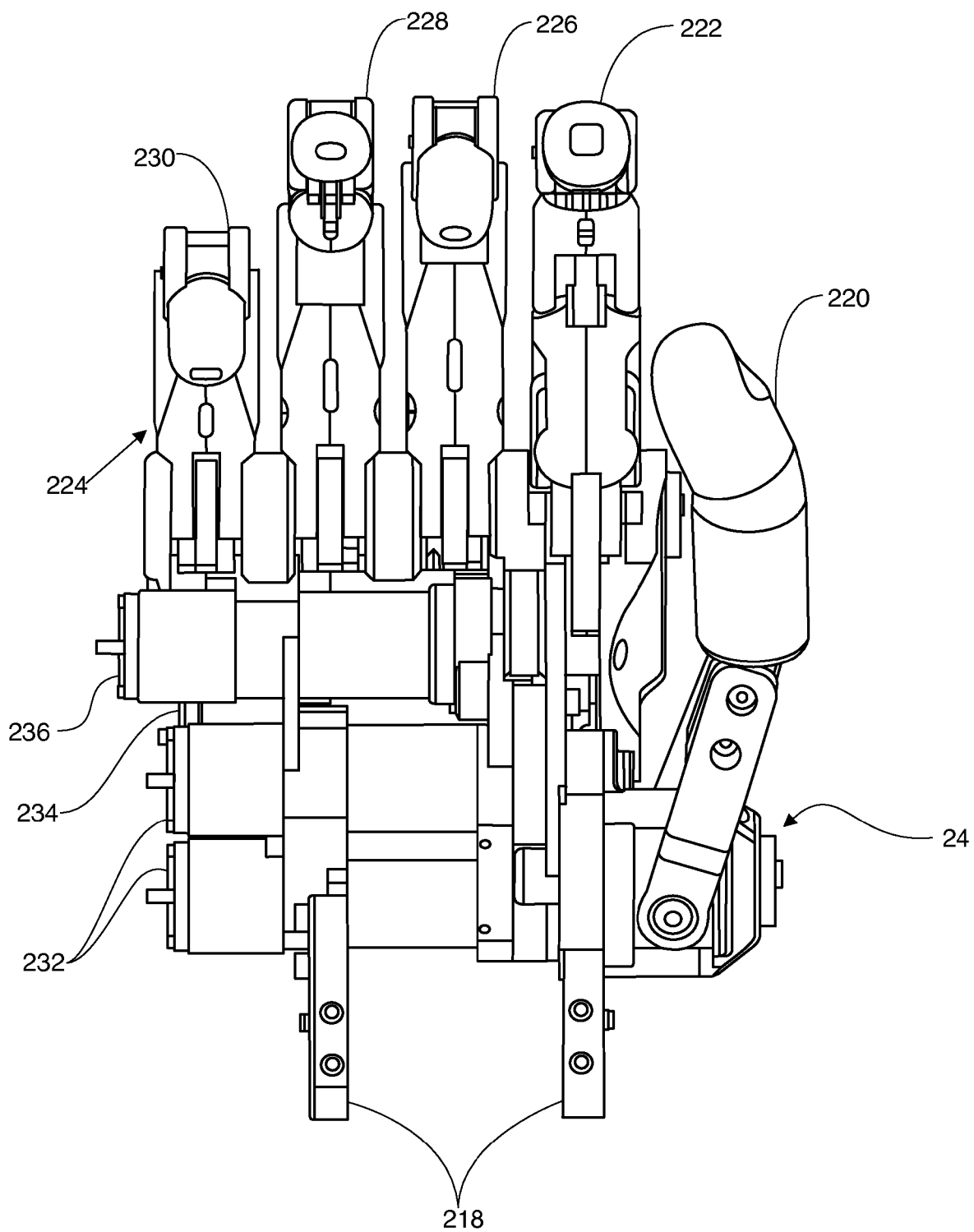


FIG. 30

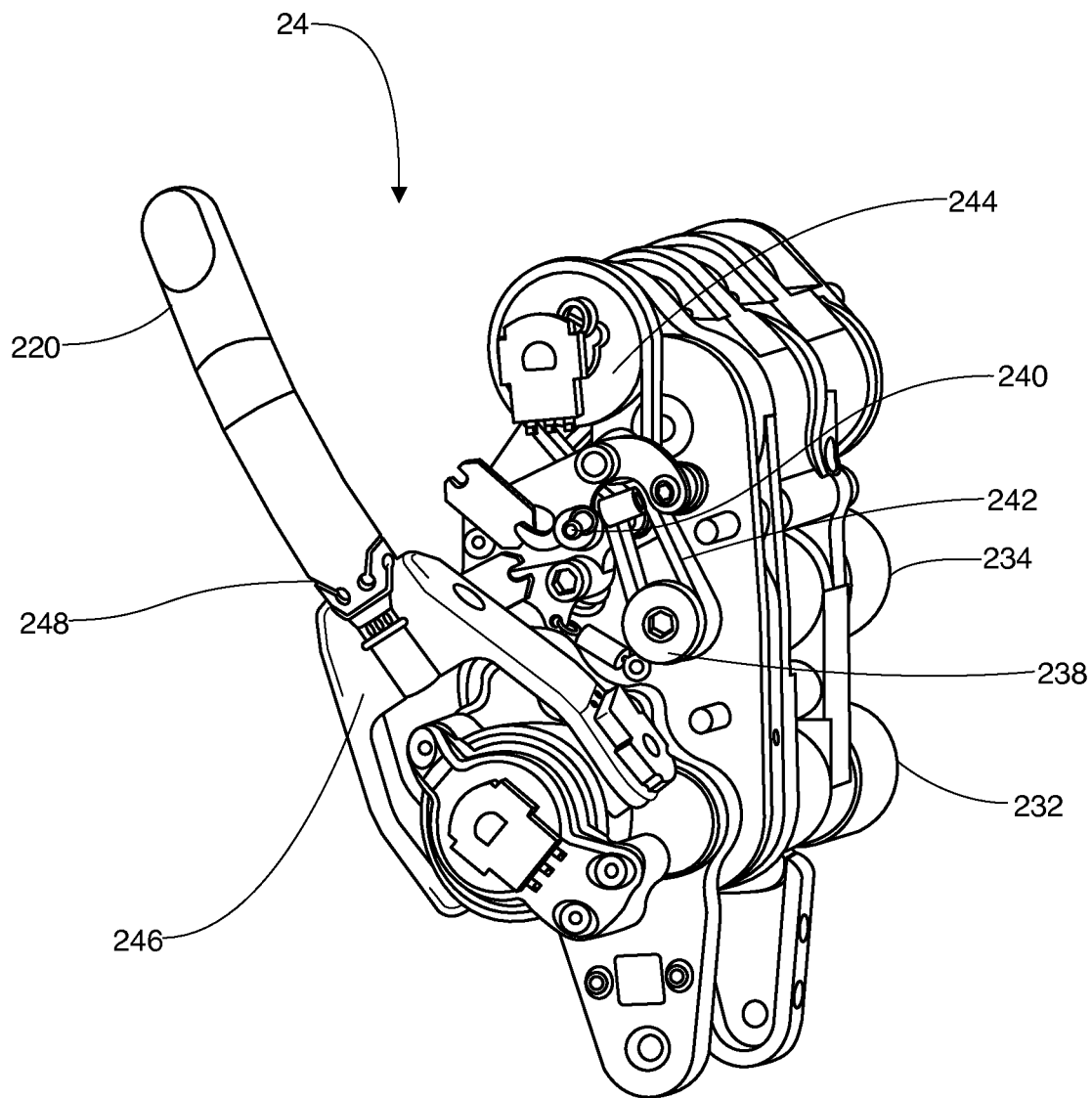


FIG. 31

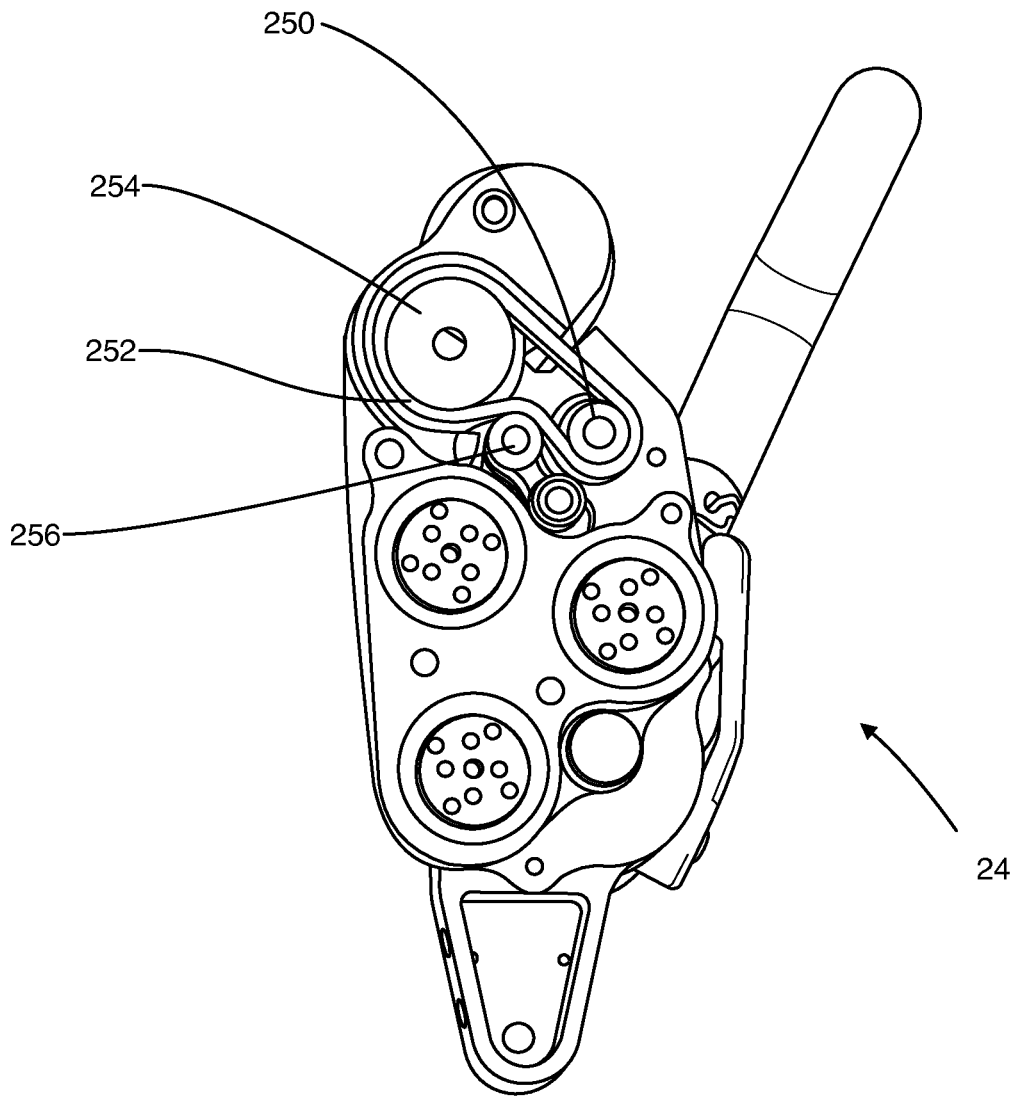


FIG. 32

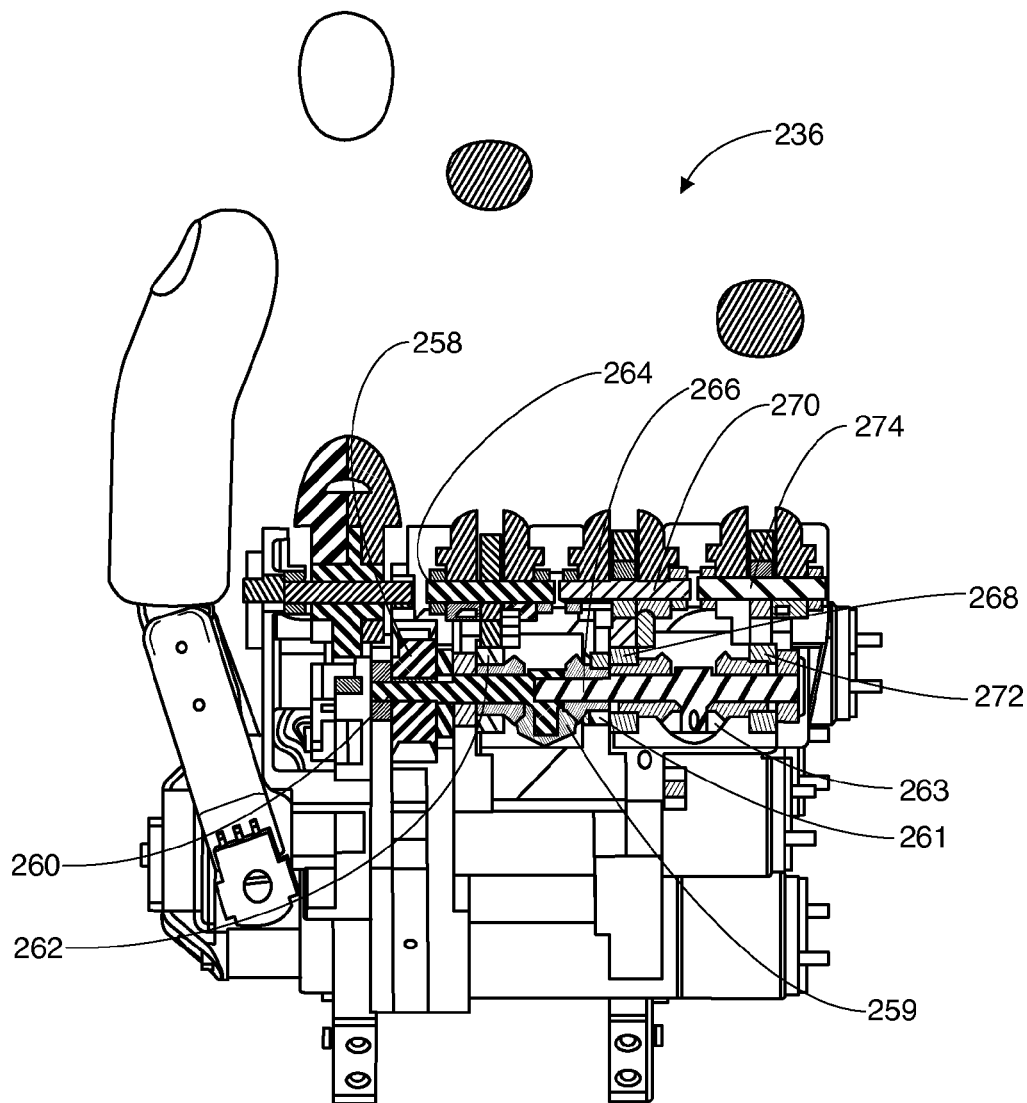
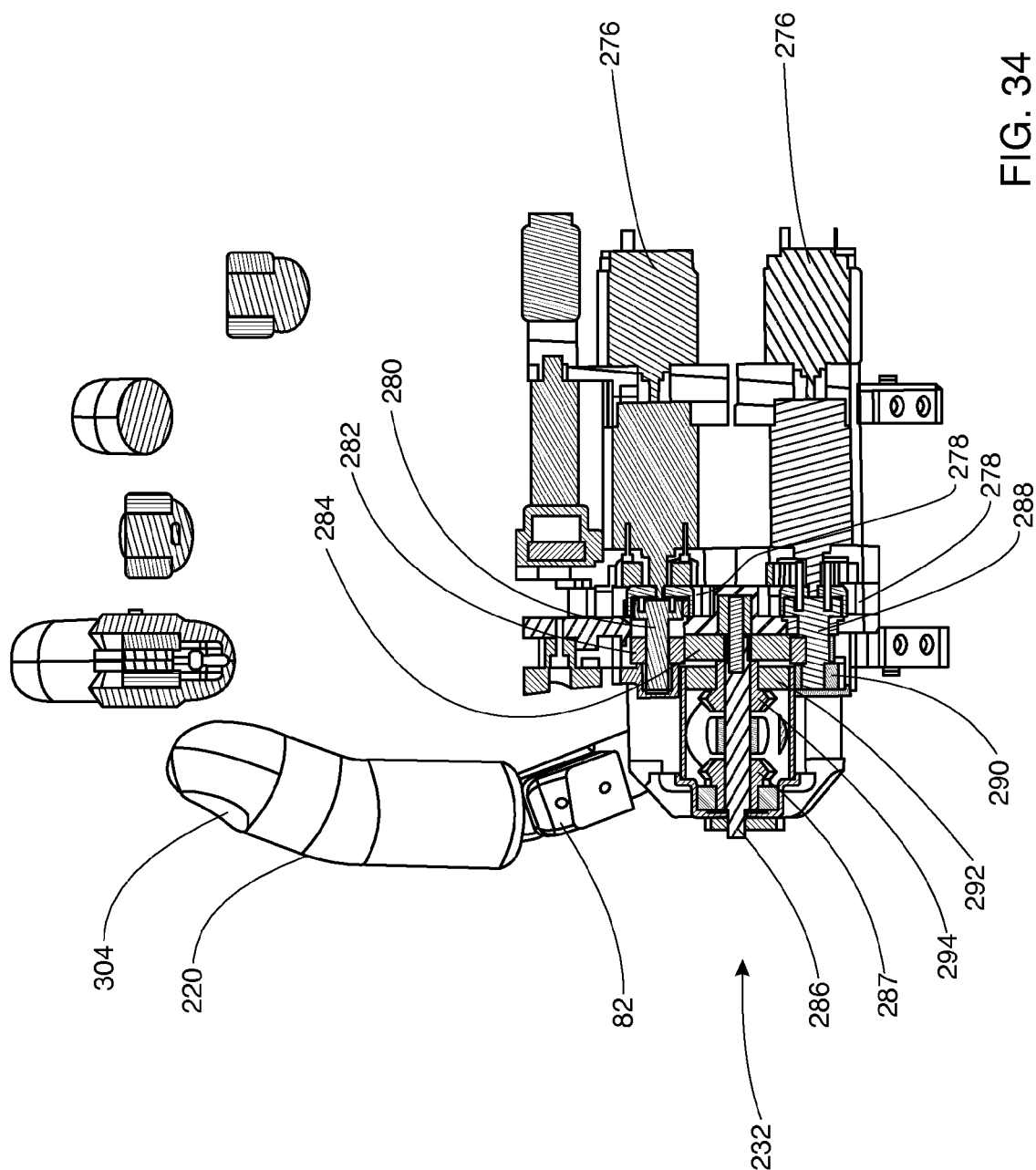


FIG. 33



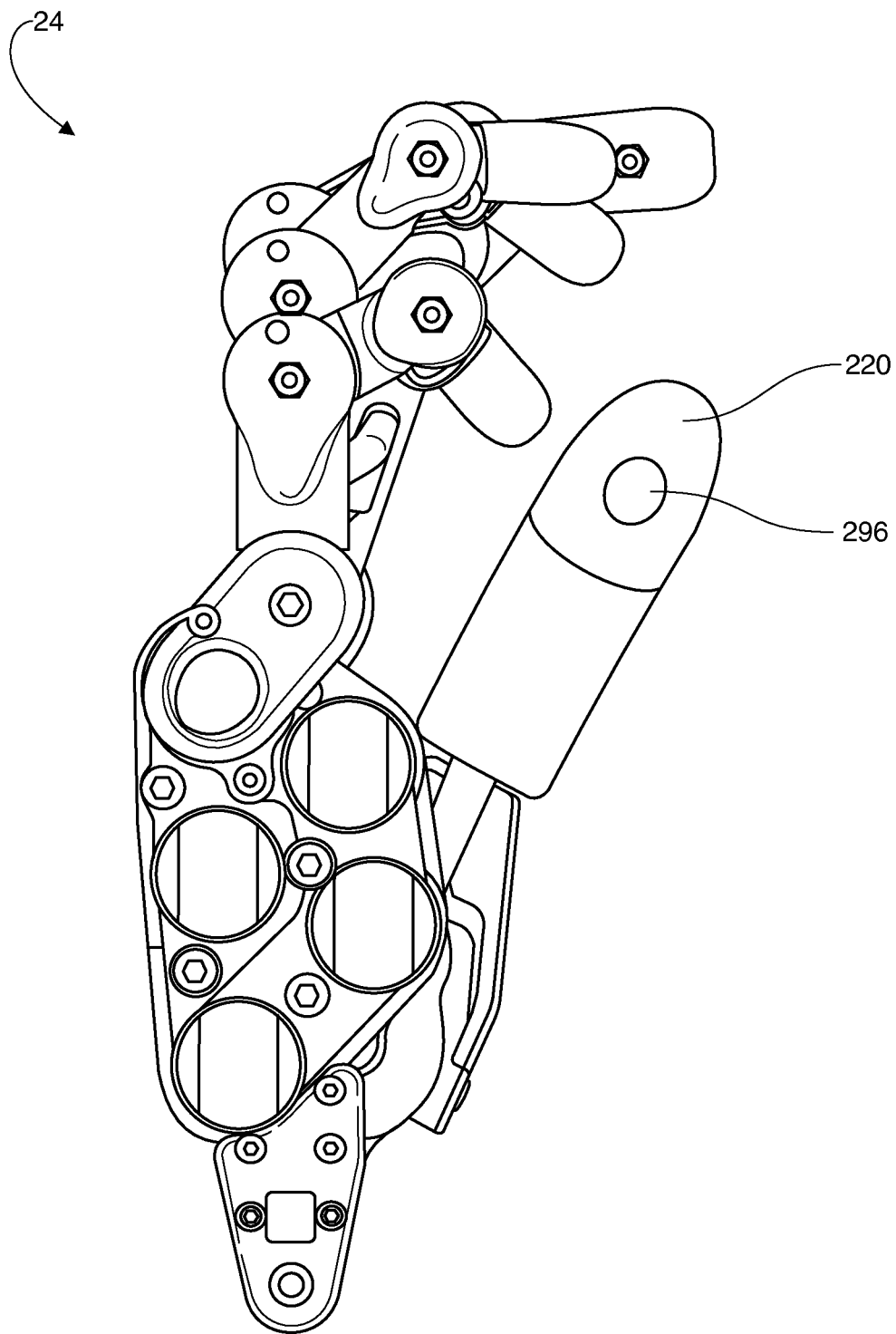


FIG. 35

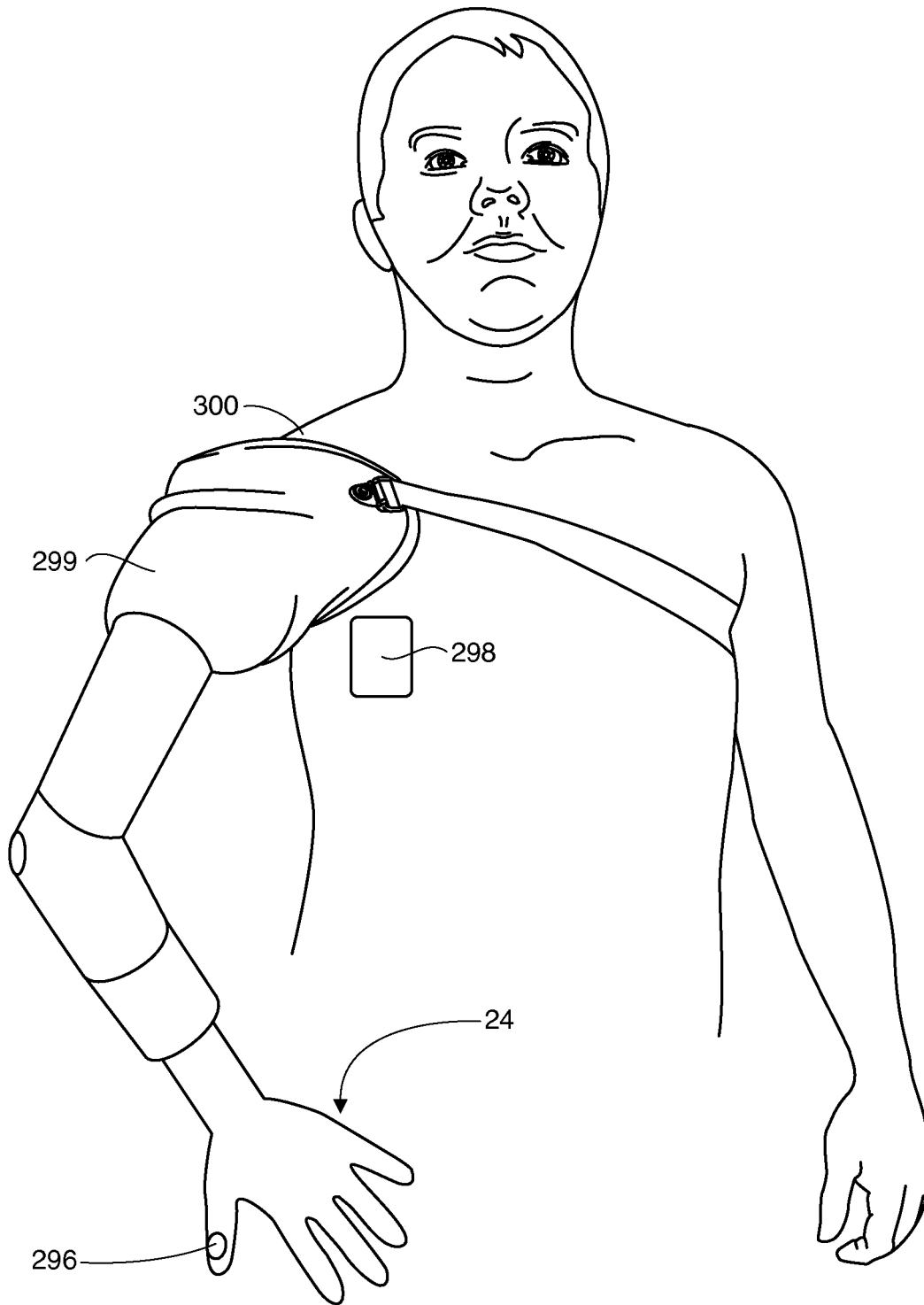


FIG. 36

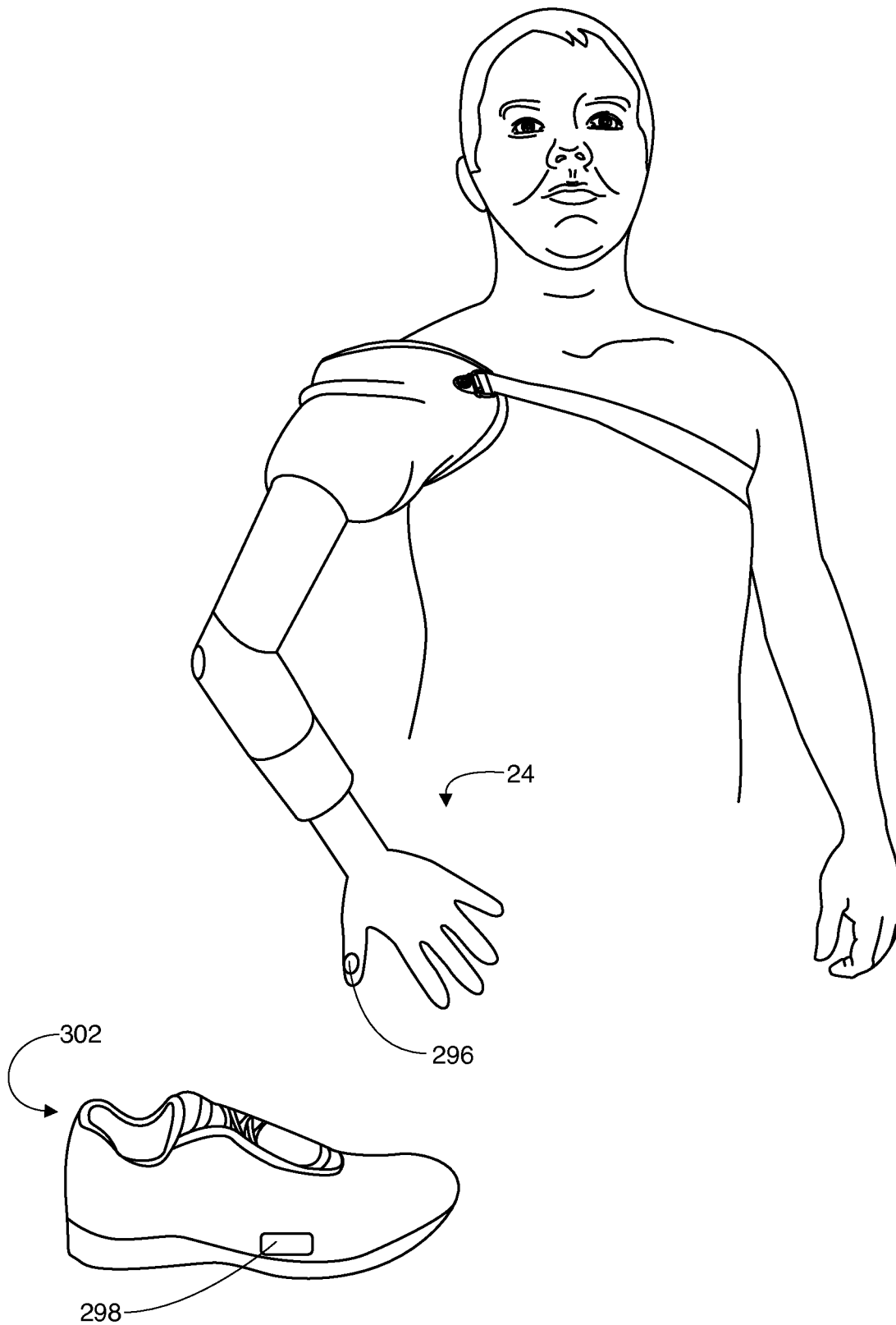


FIG. 37

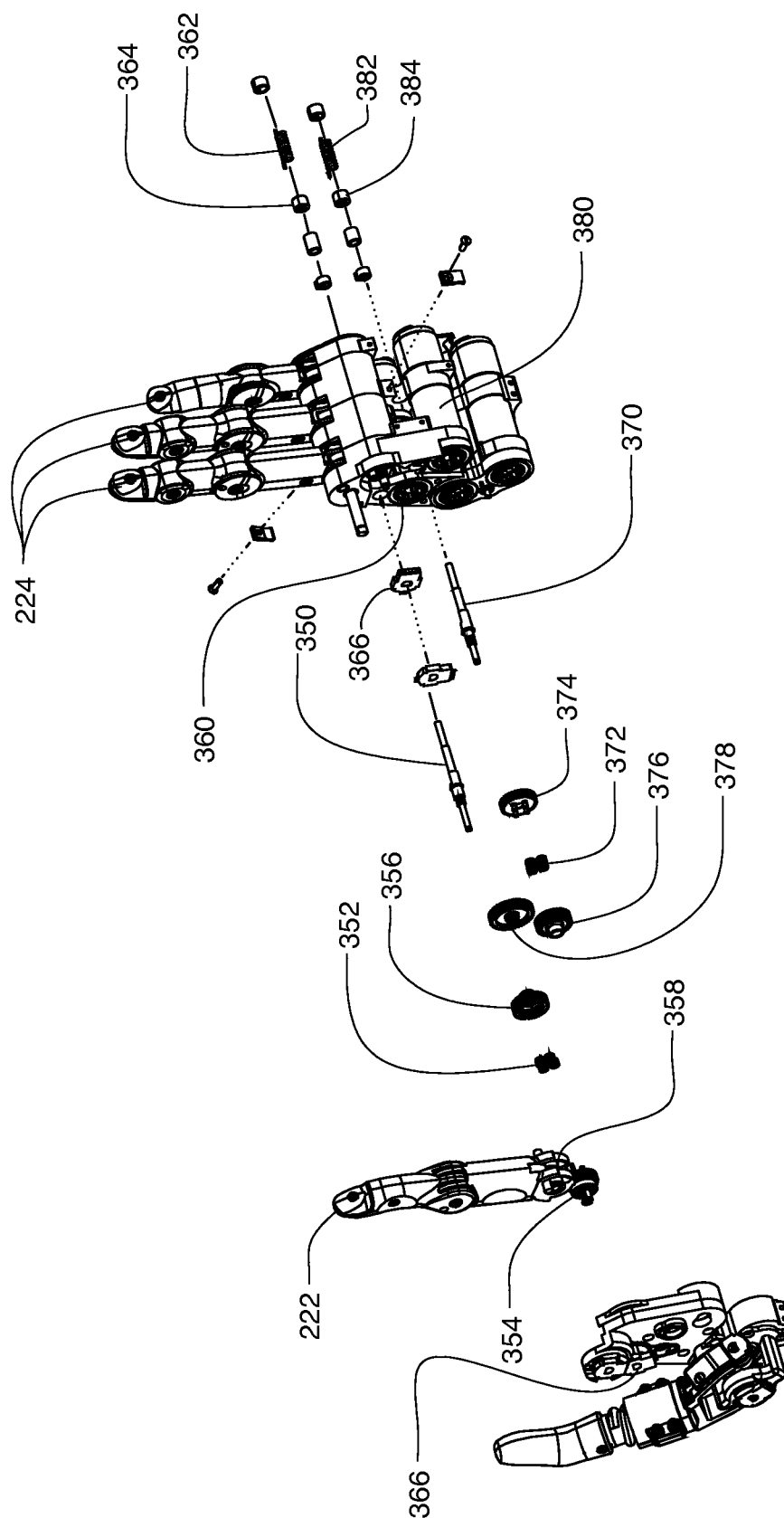


FIG. 38

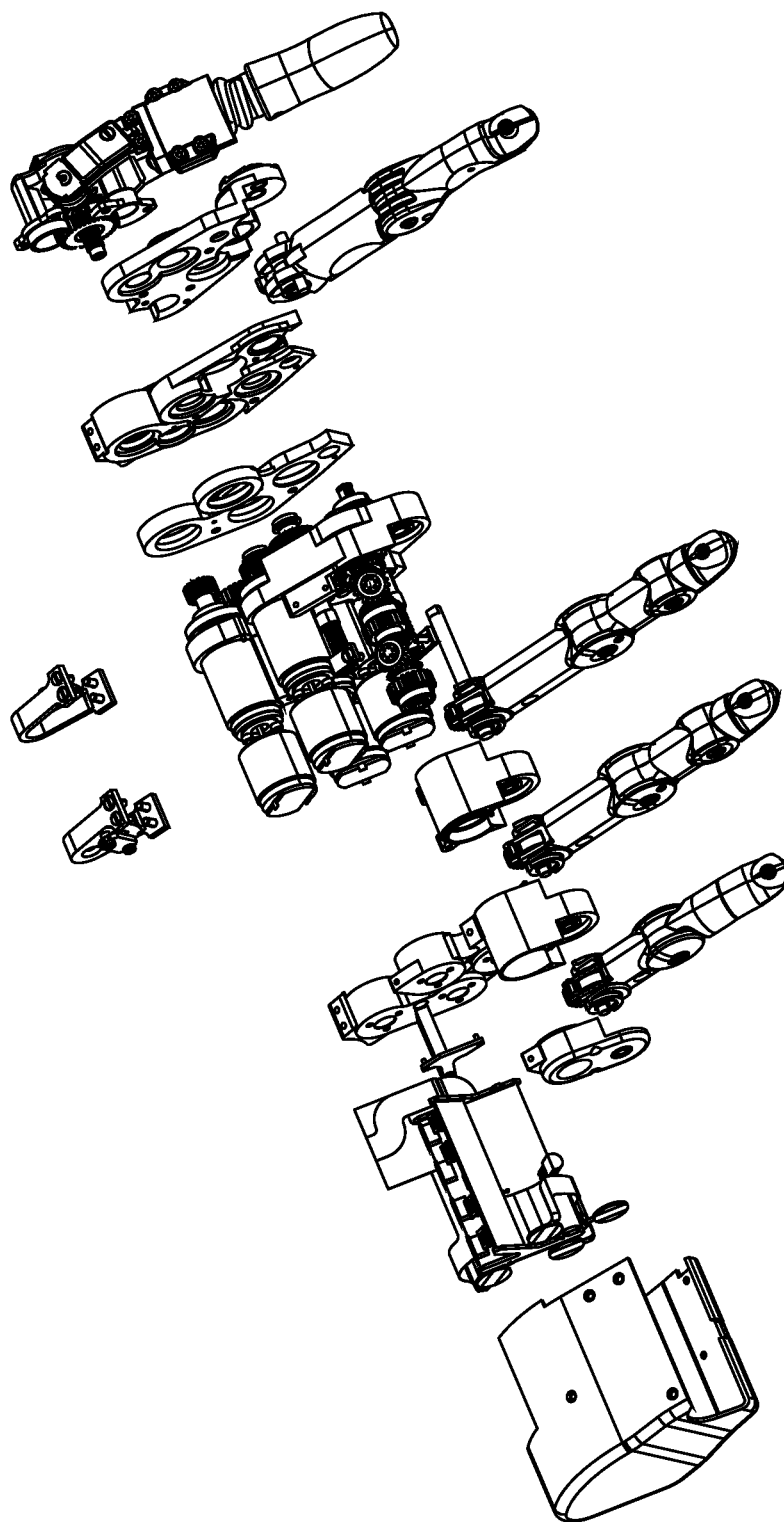


FIG. 39

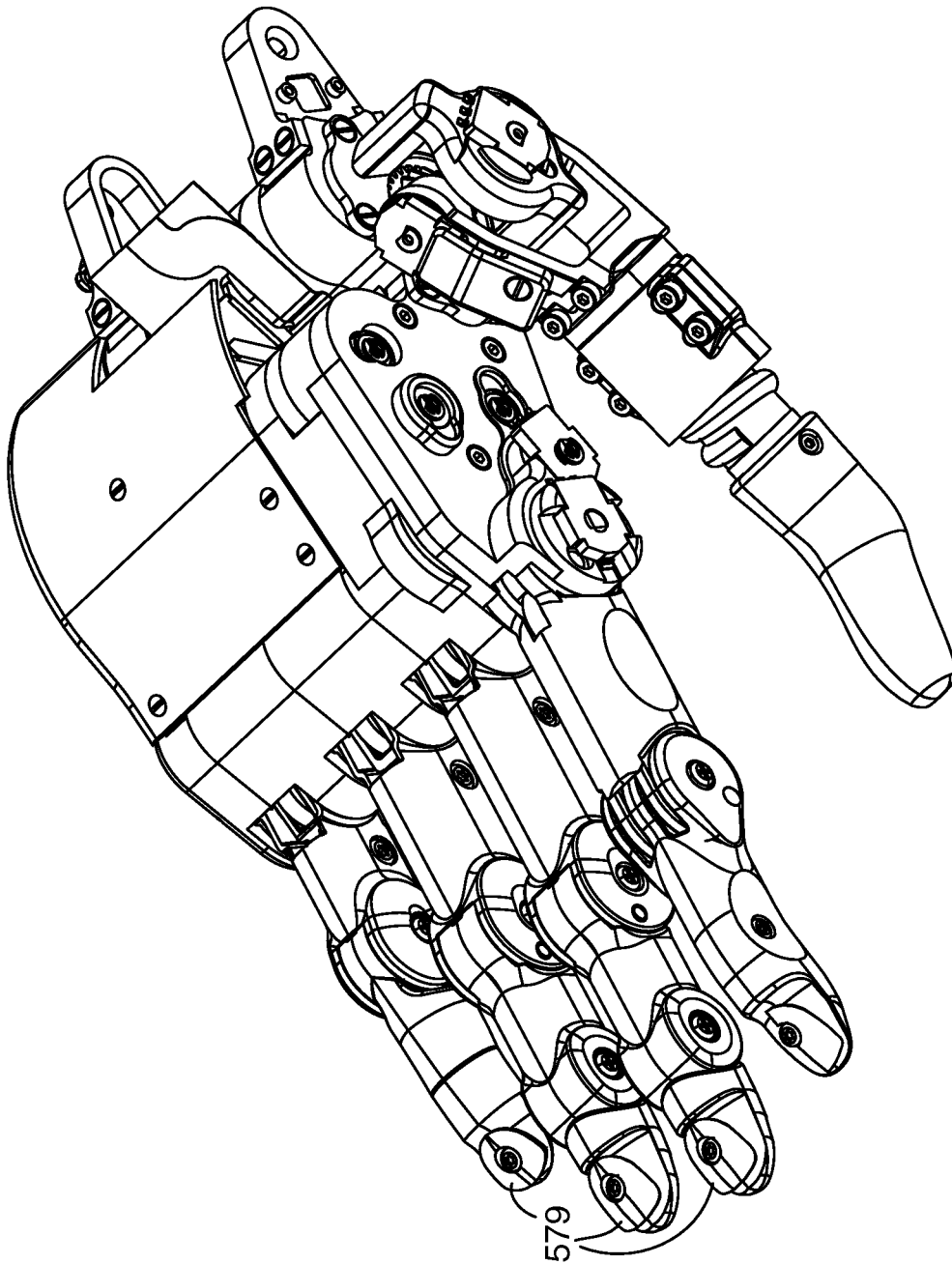


FIG. 40

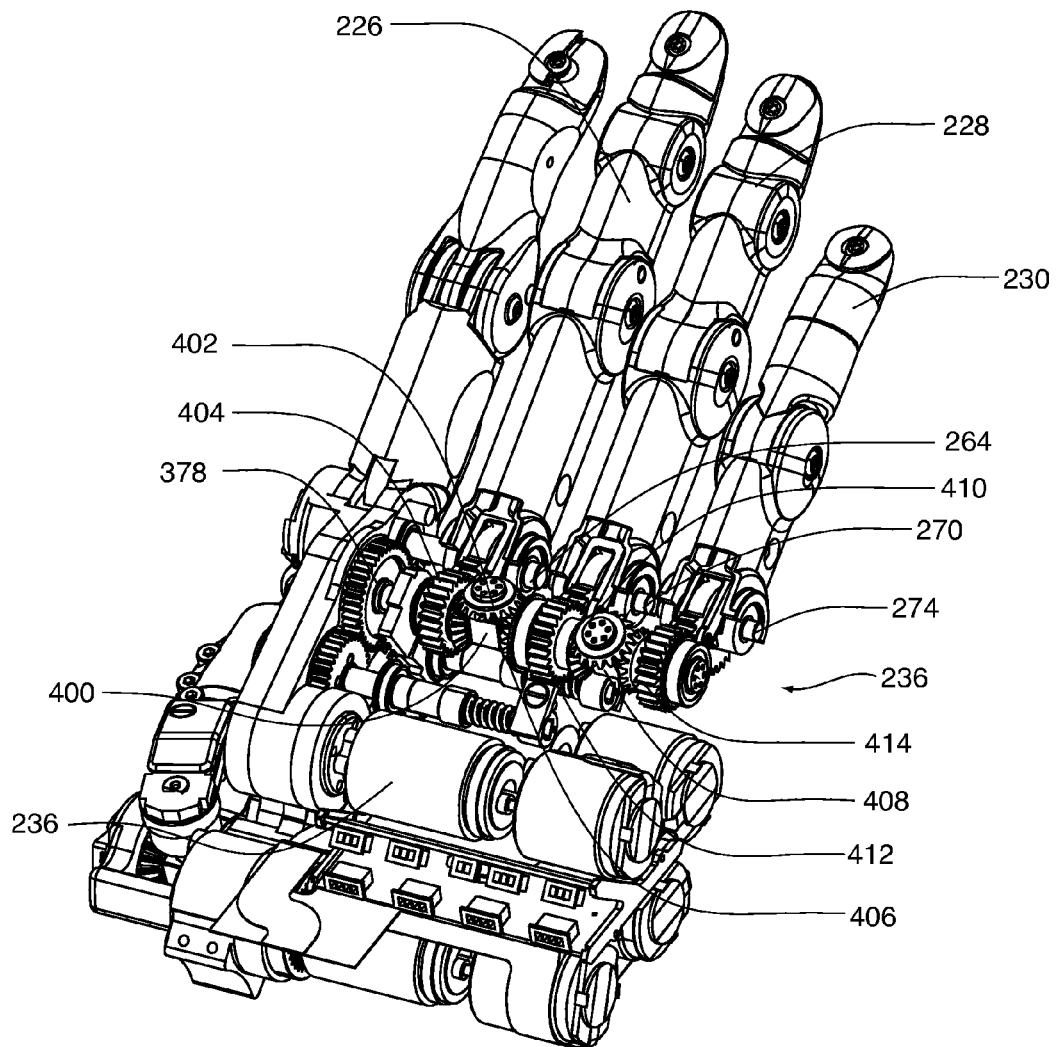
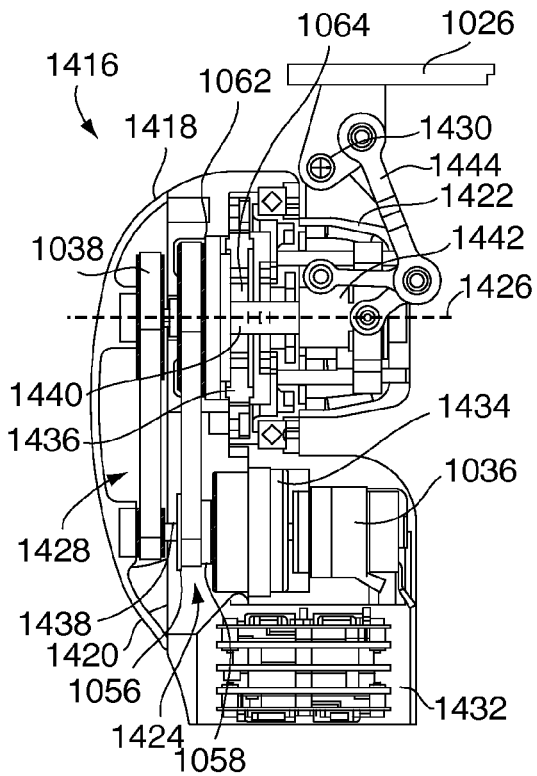
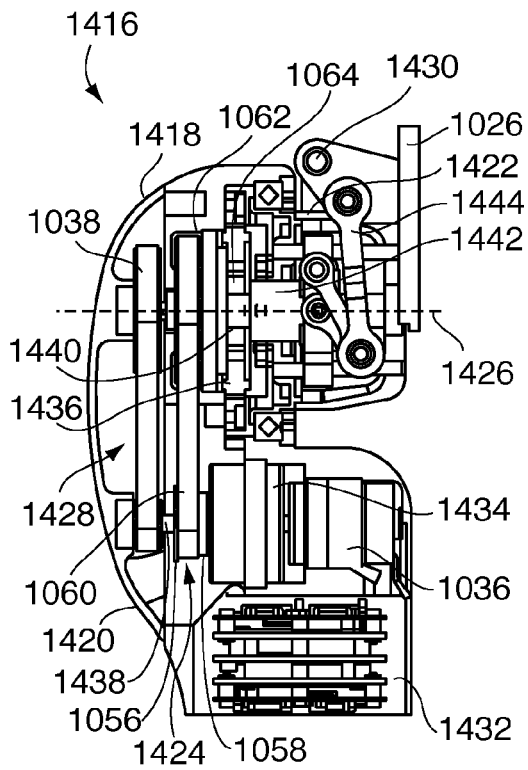
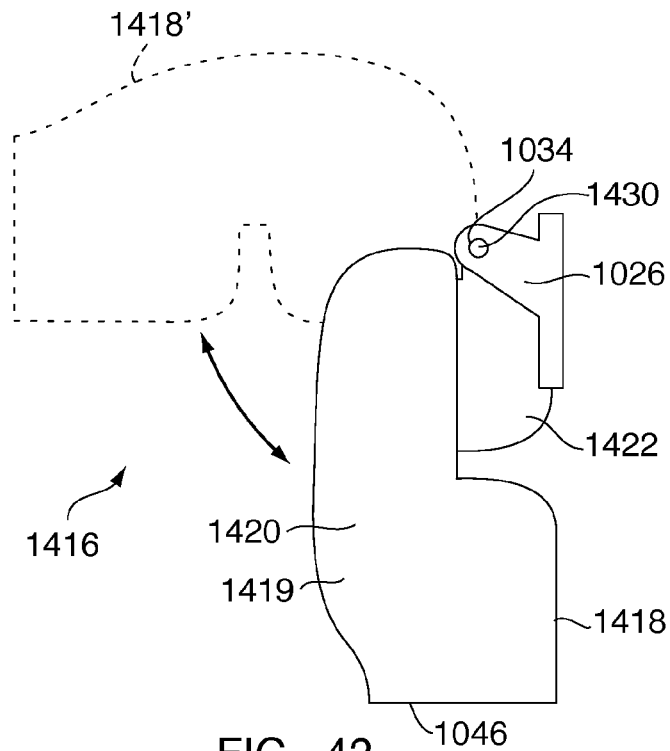


FIG. 41



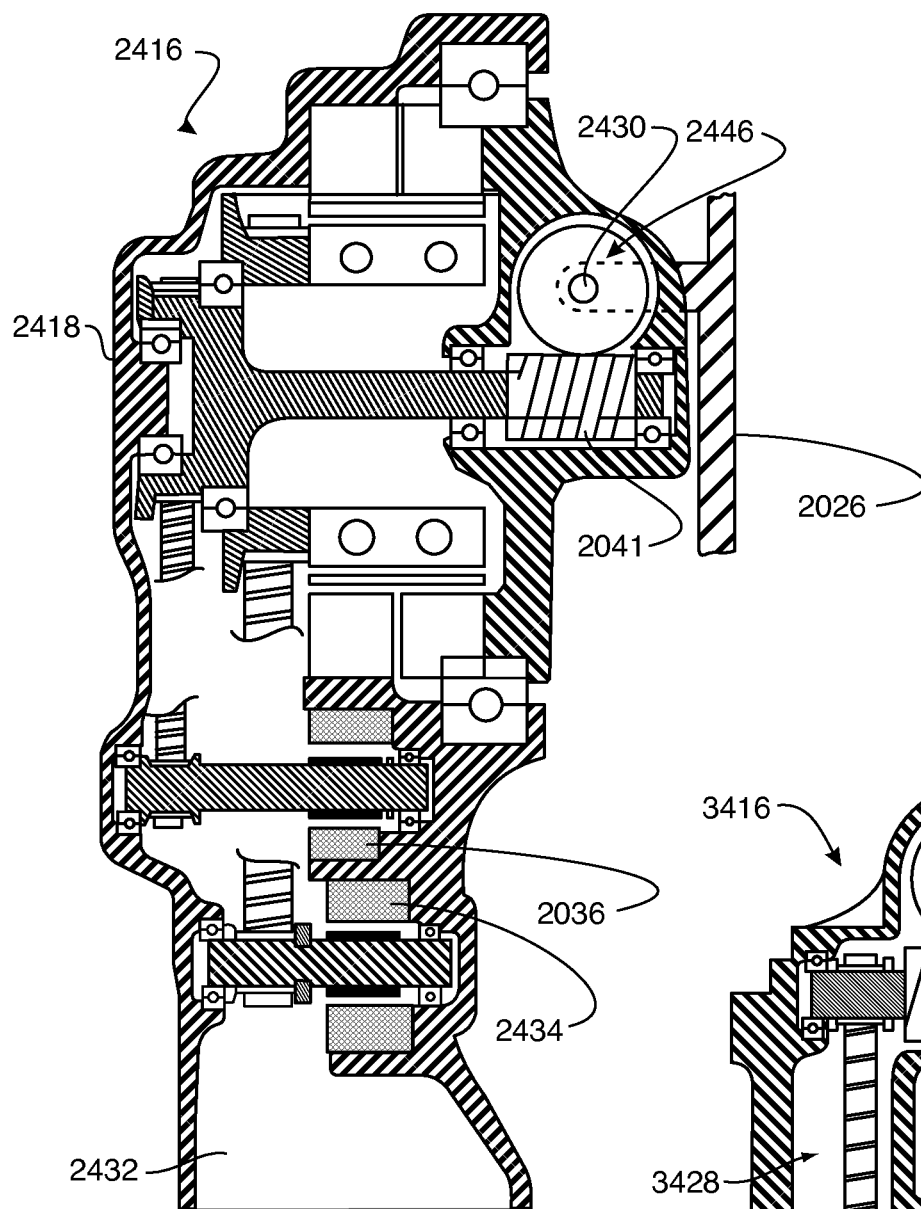


FIG. 45

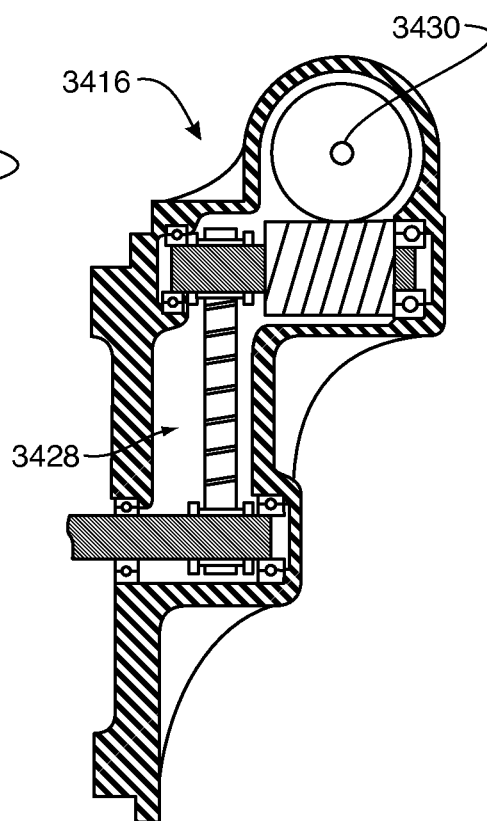
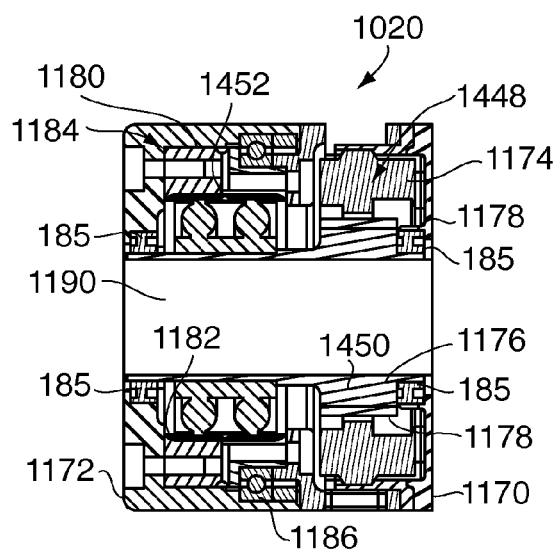
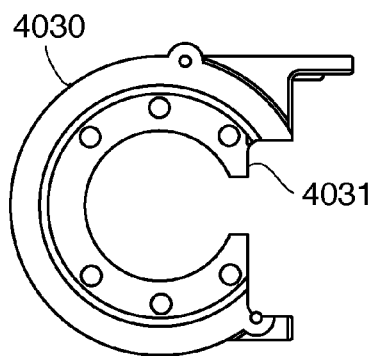
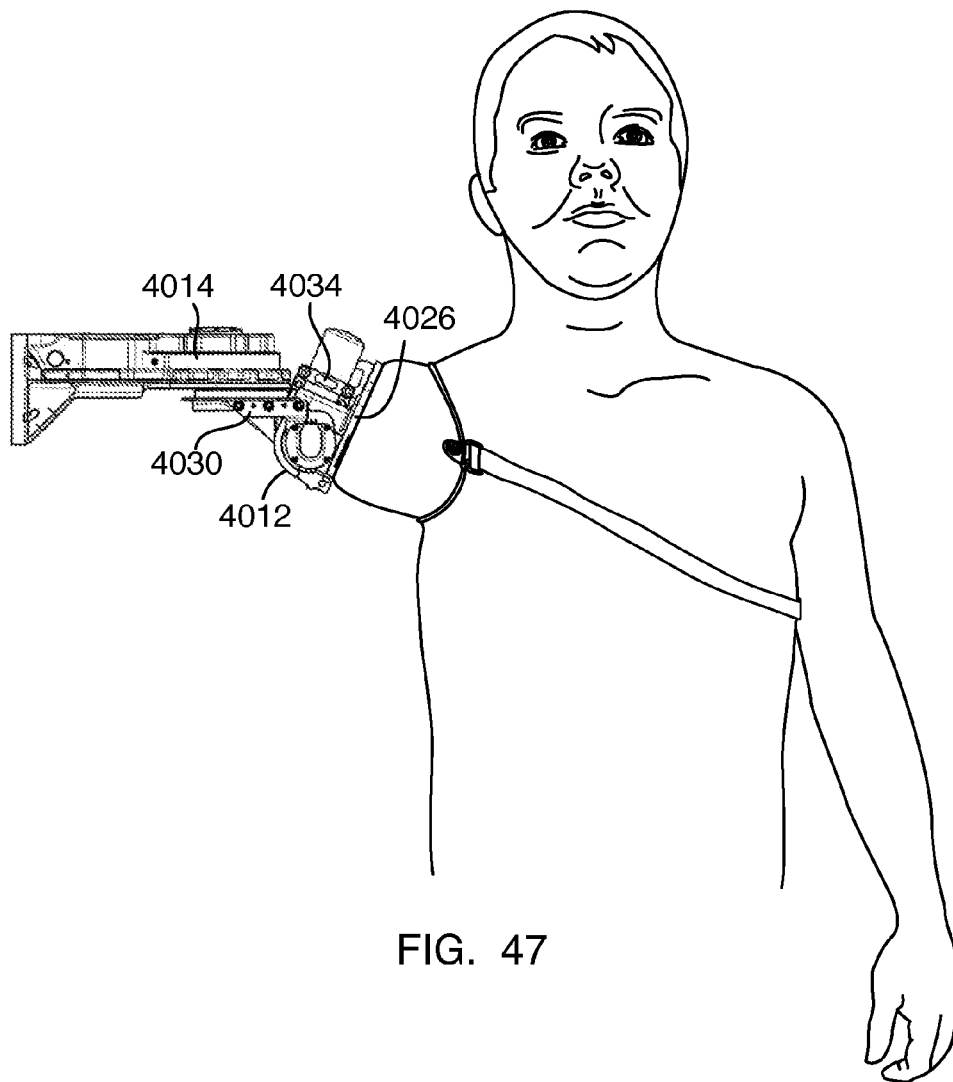


FIG. 46



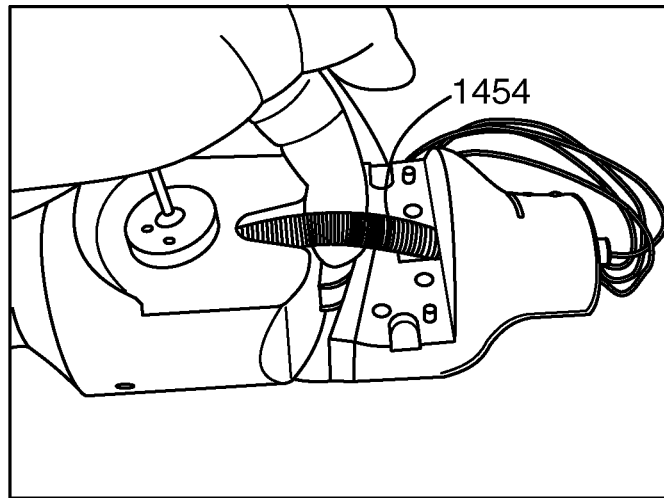


FIG. 50

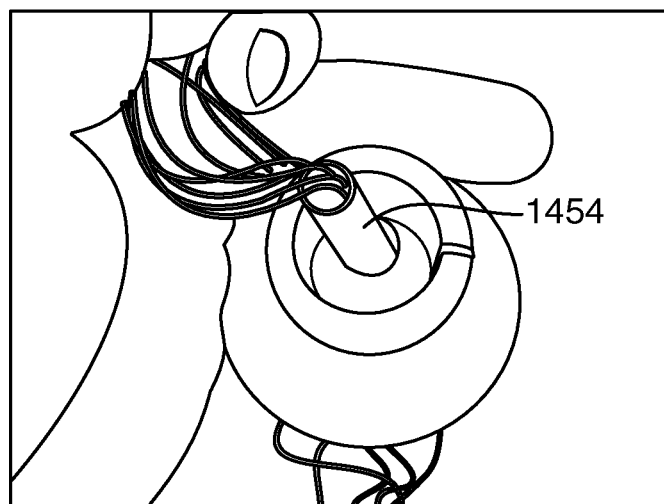


FIG. 51

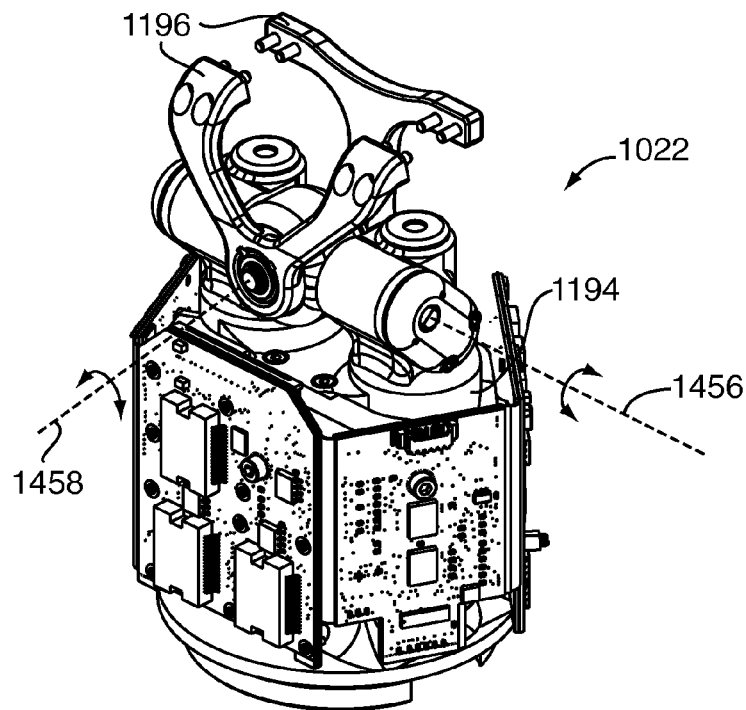


FIG. 52

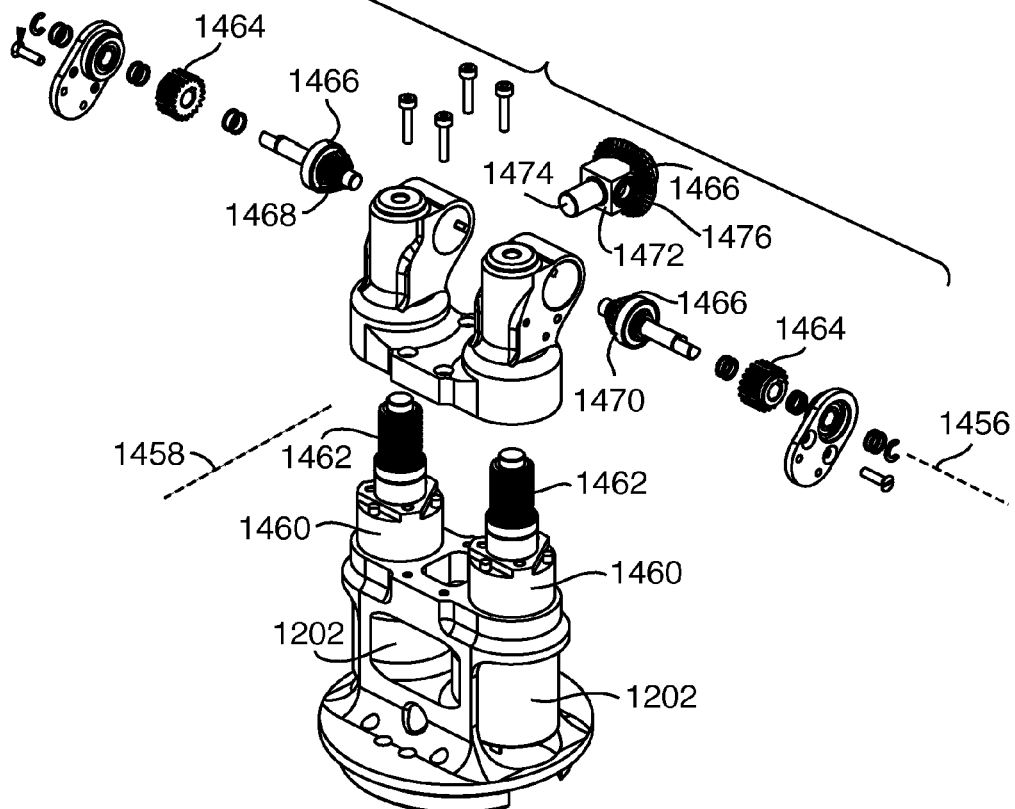


FIG. 53

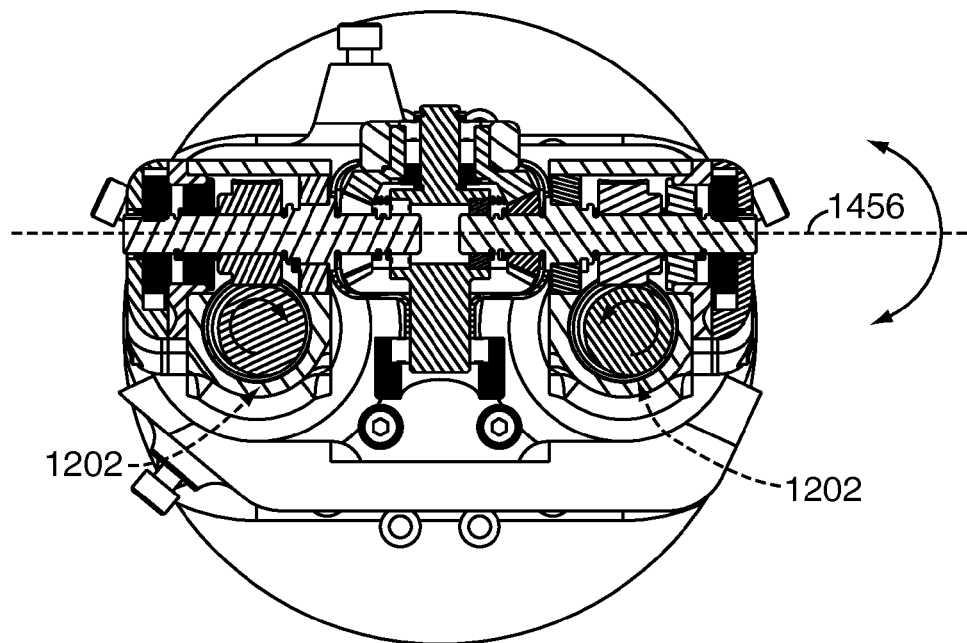


FIG. 54

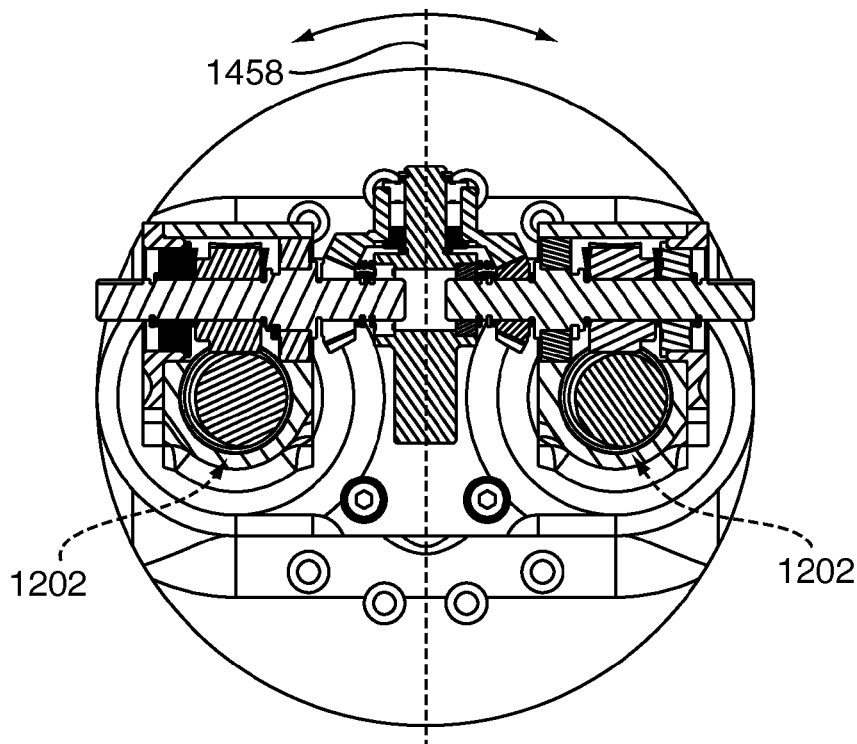
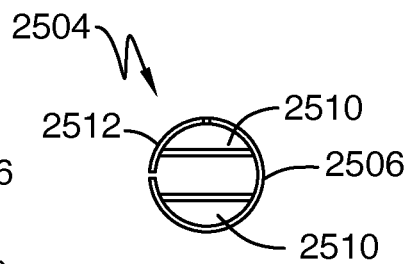
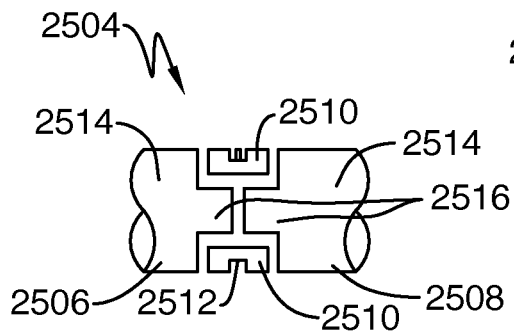
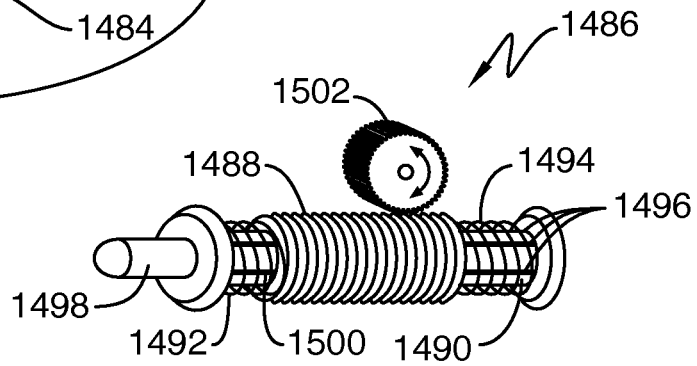
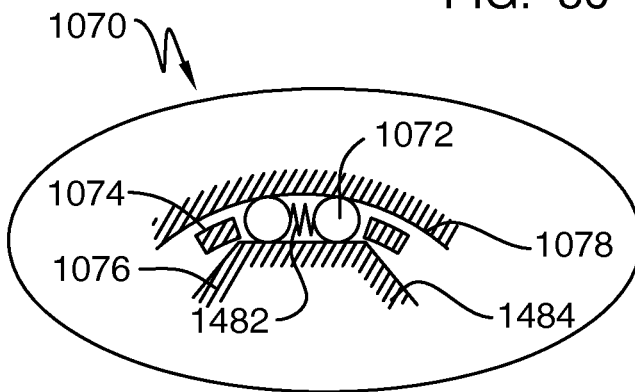
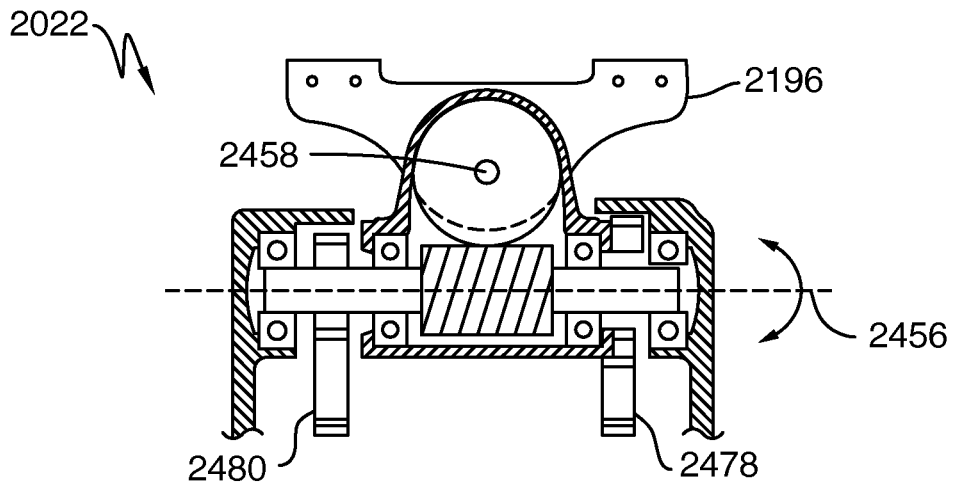


FIG. 55



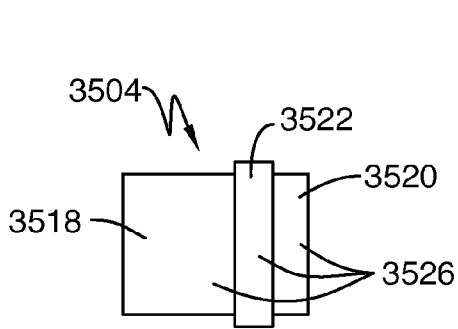


FIG. 61A

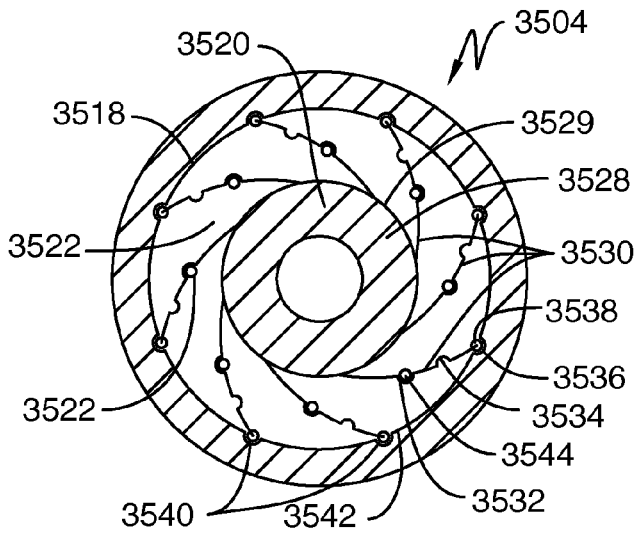


FIG. 61B

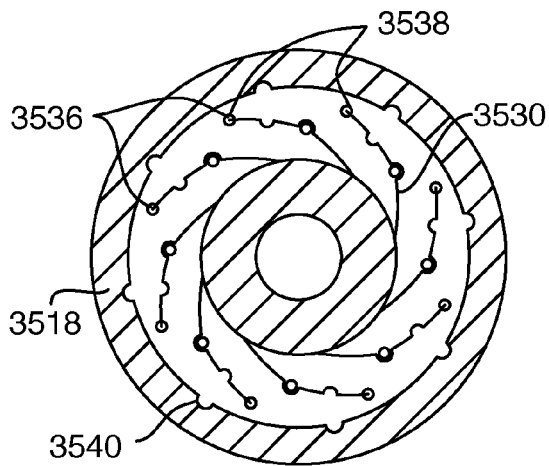


FIG. 62A

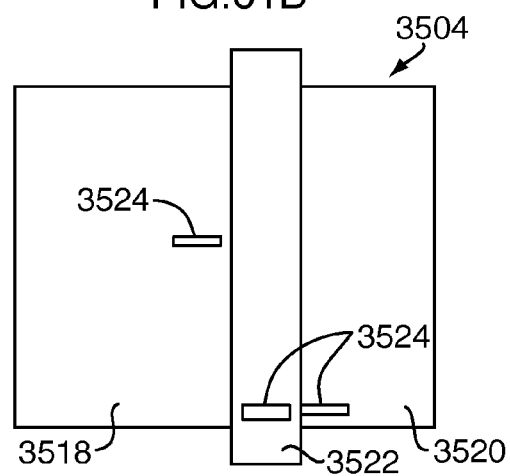


FIG. 62B

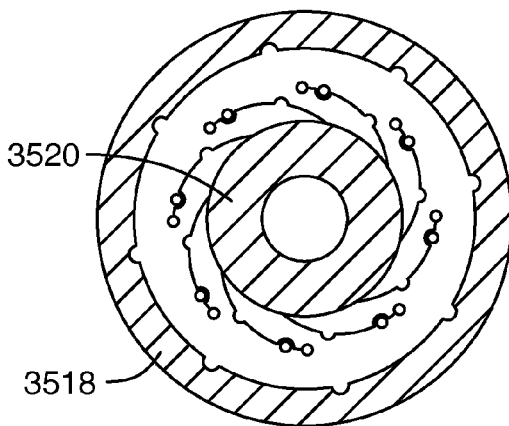


FIG. 63A

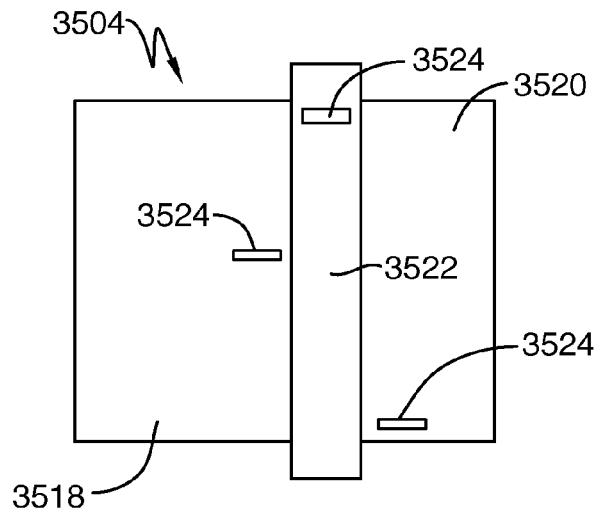


FIG. 63B

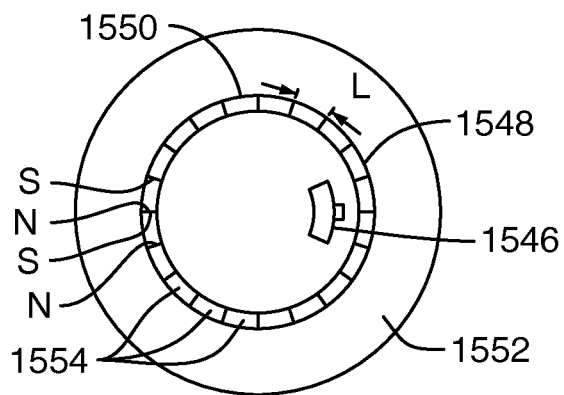


FIG. 64

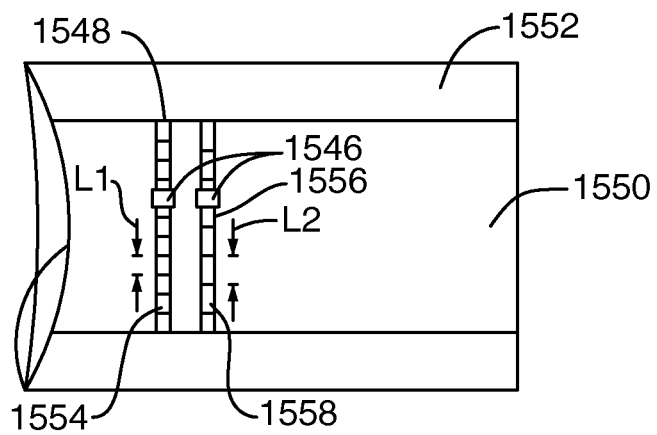


FIG. 65

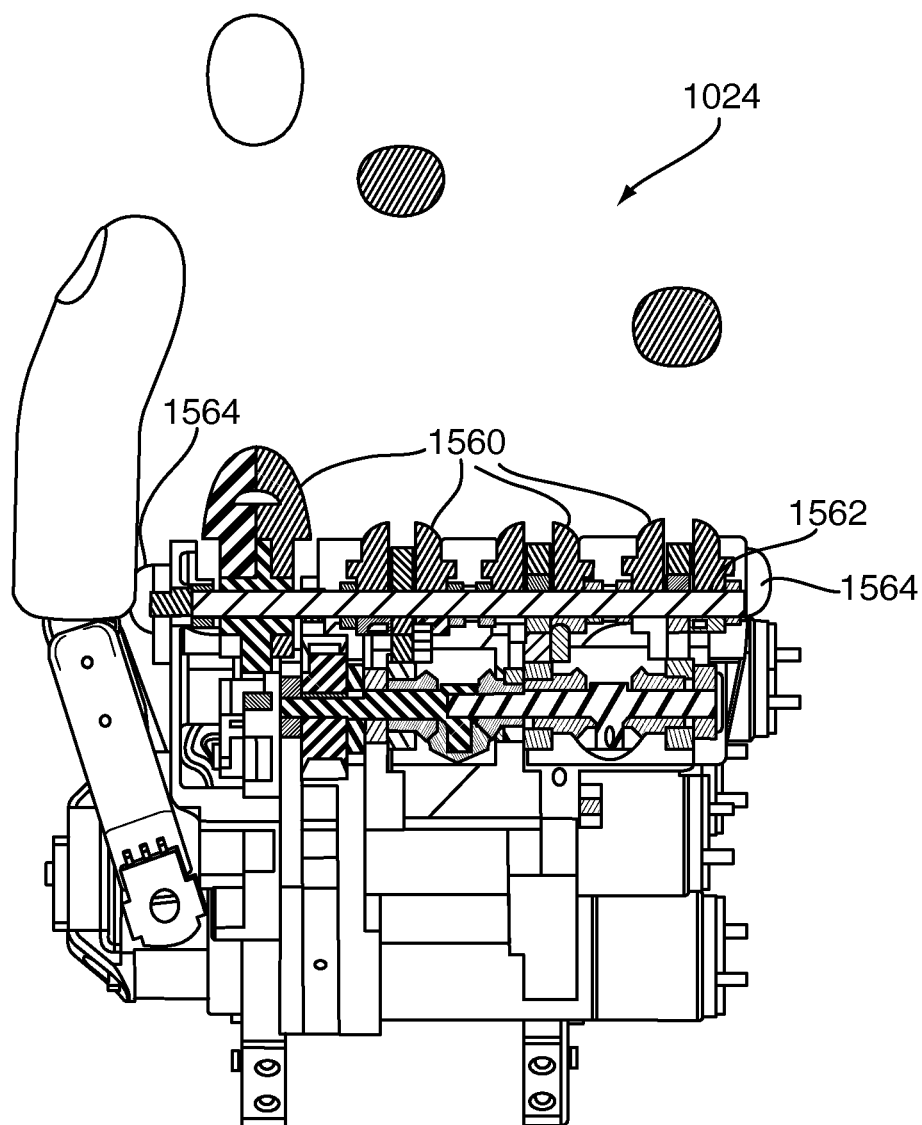


FIG. 66

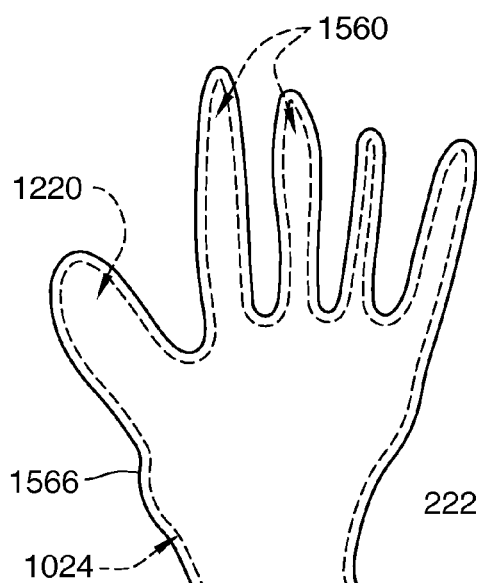


FIG. 67

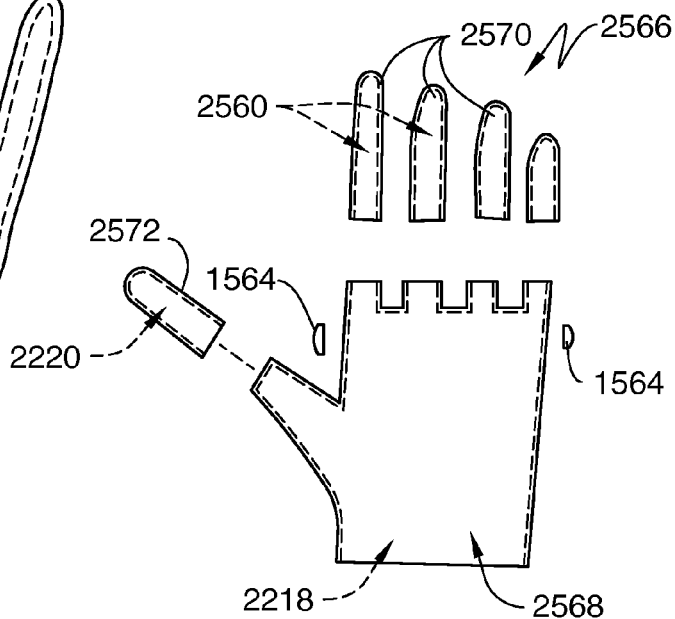


FIG. 68A

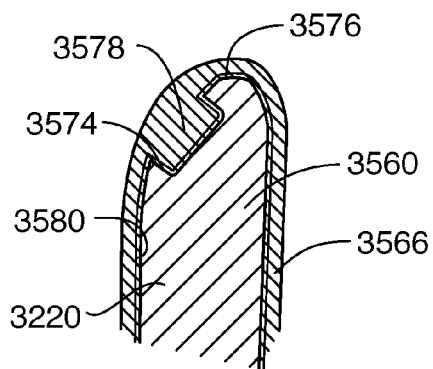


FIG. 68B

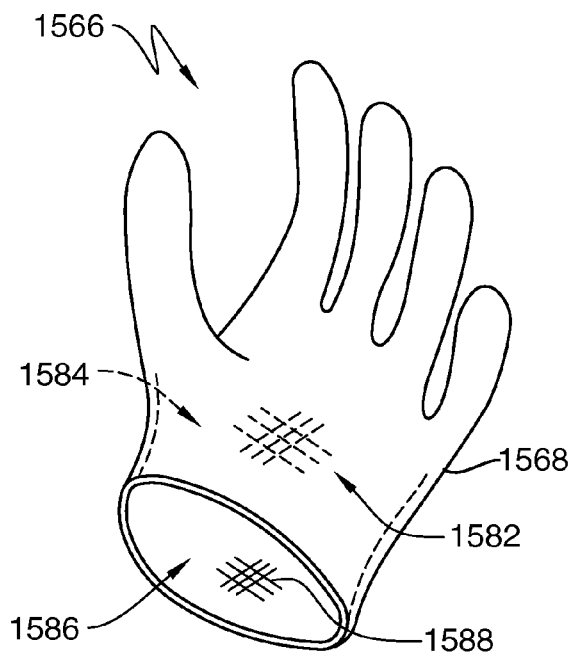


FIG. 69

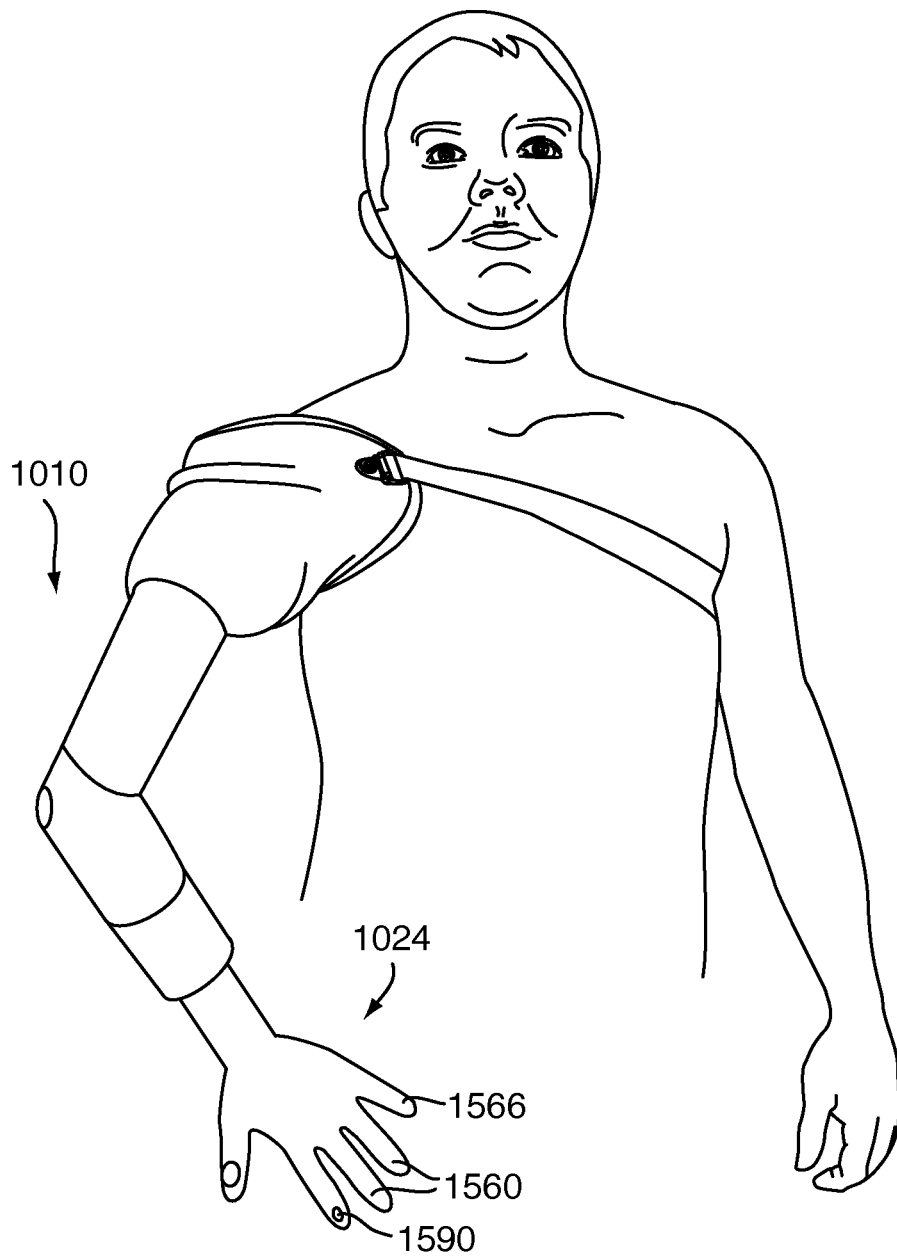


FIG. 70

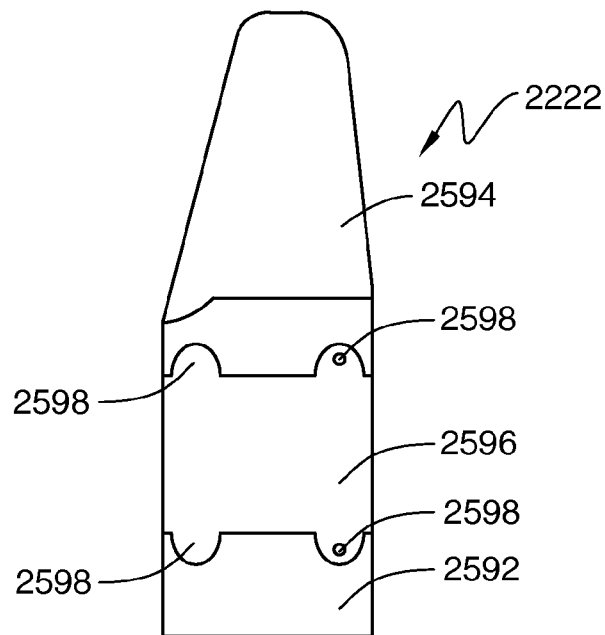


FIG. 71

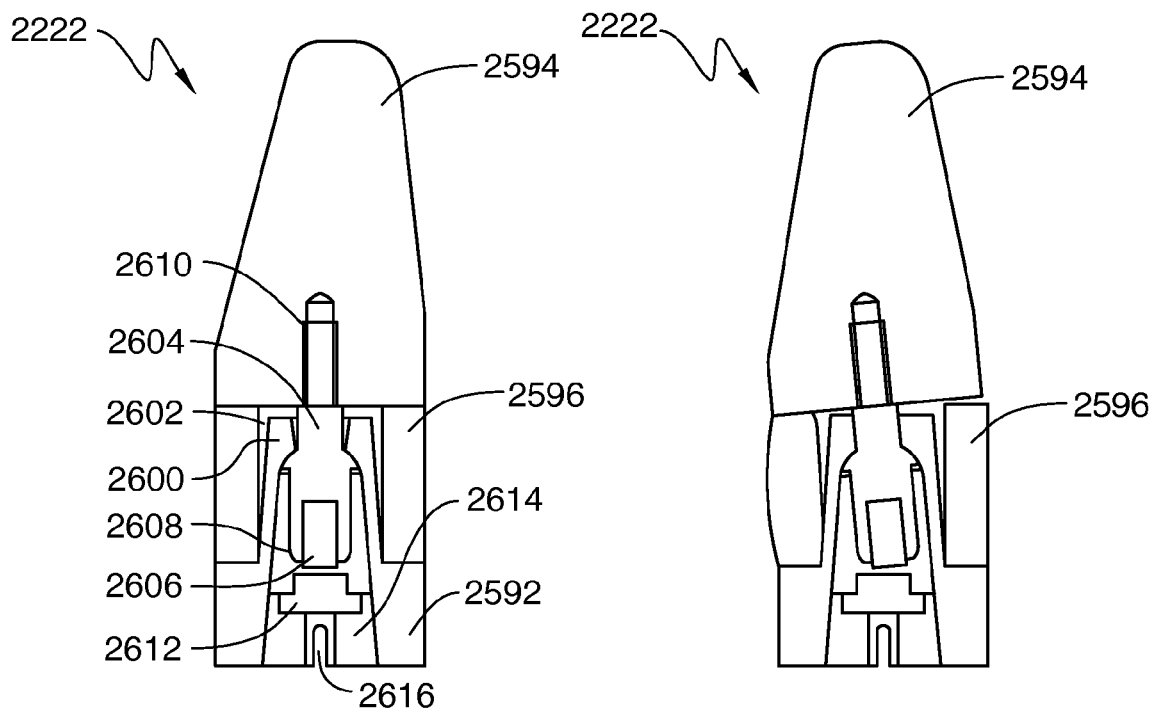


FIG. 72

FIG. 73

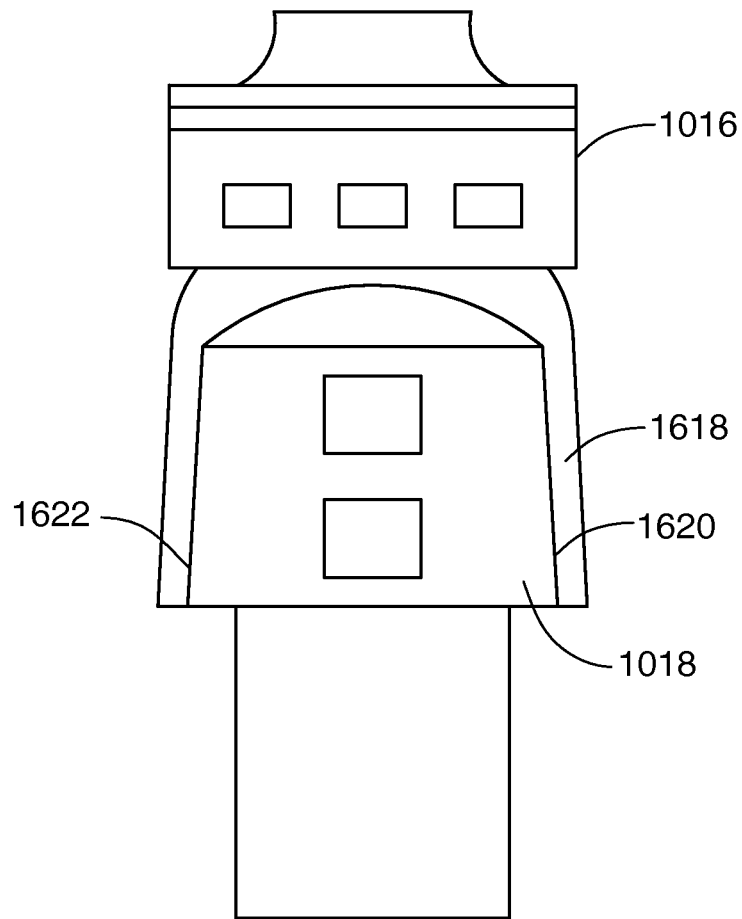


FIG. 74

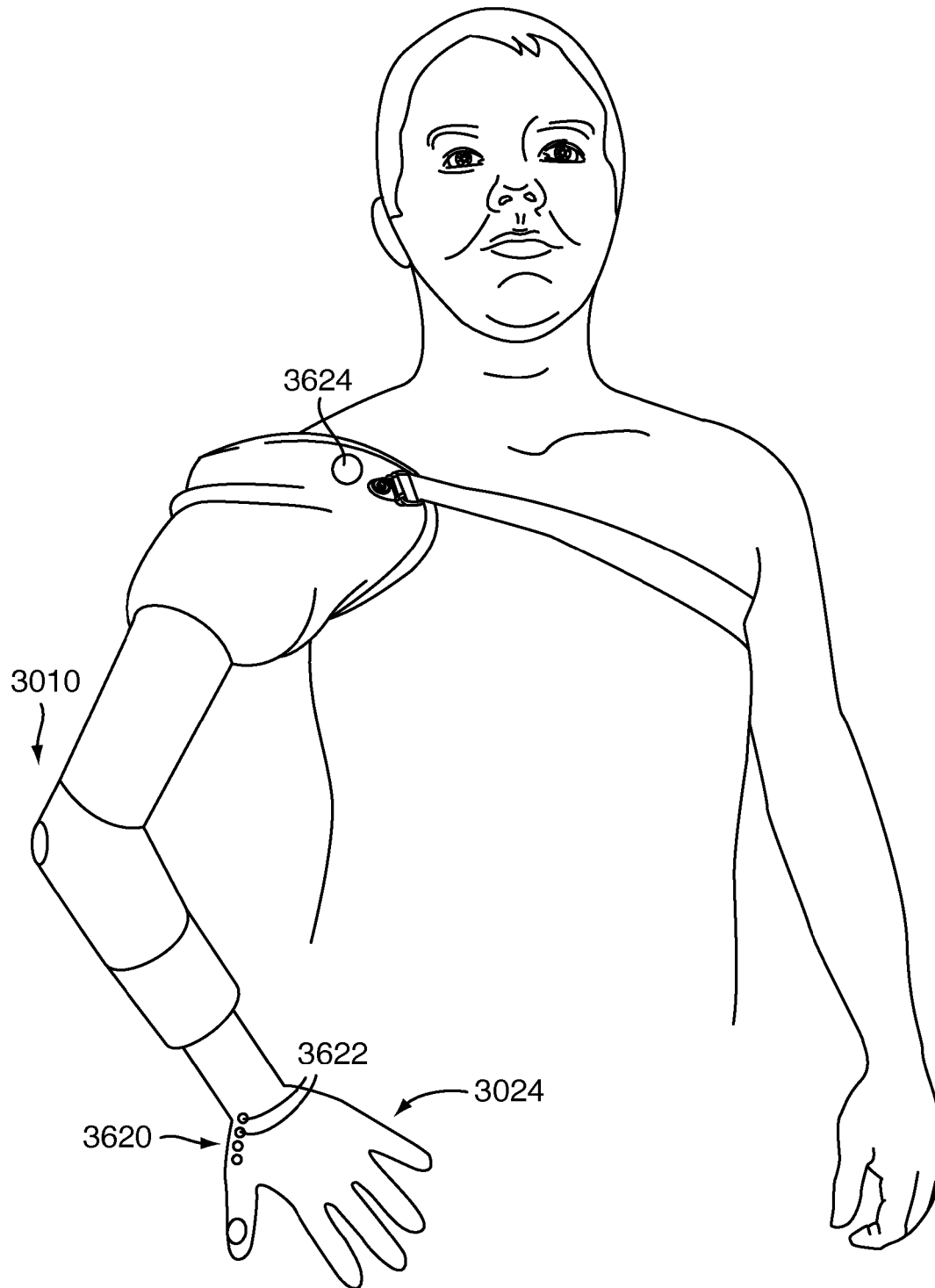


FIG. 75A

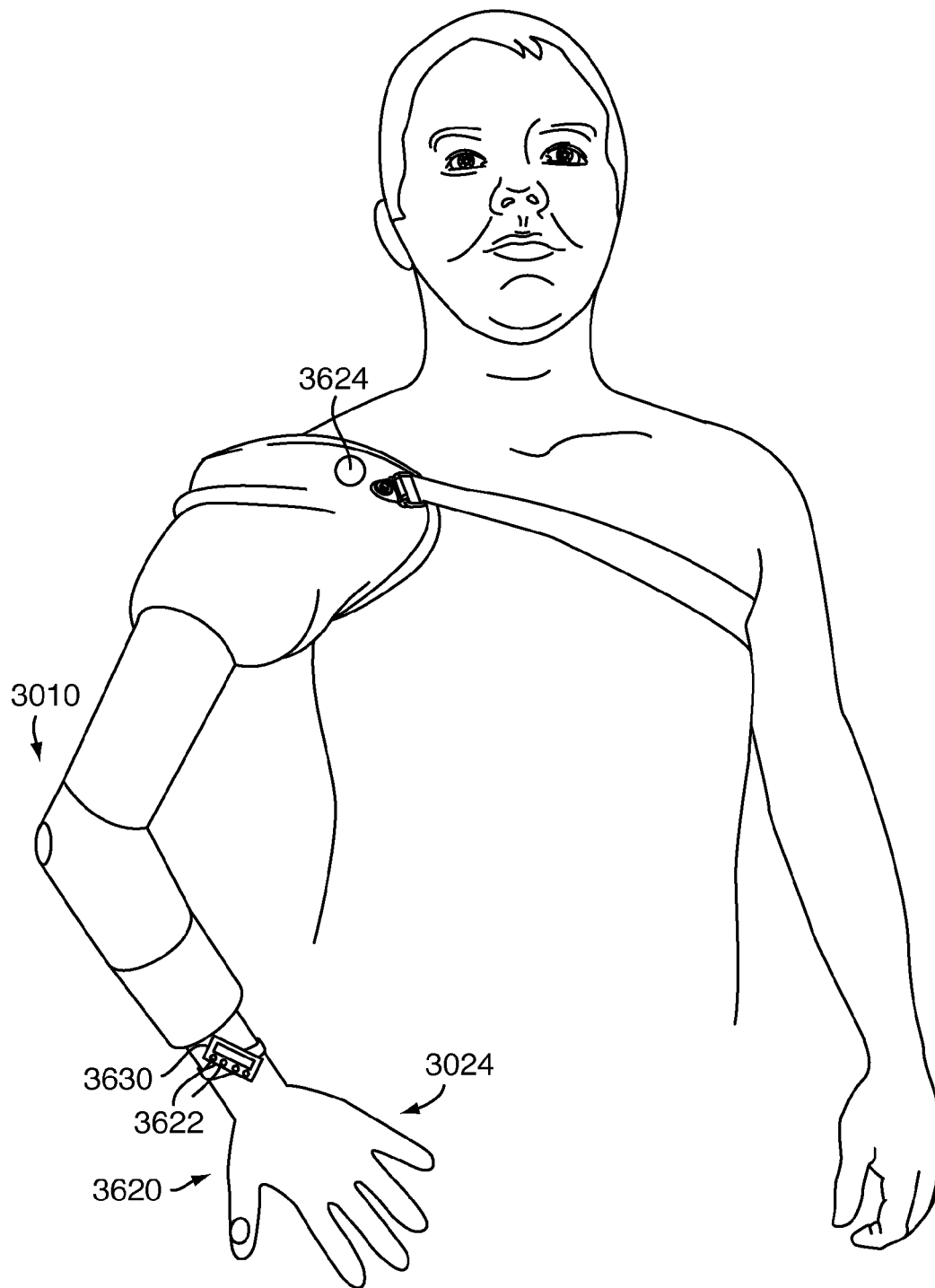


FIG. 75B

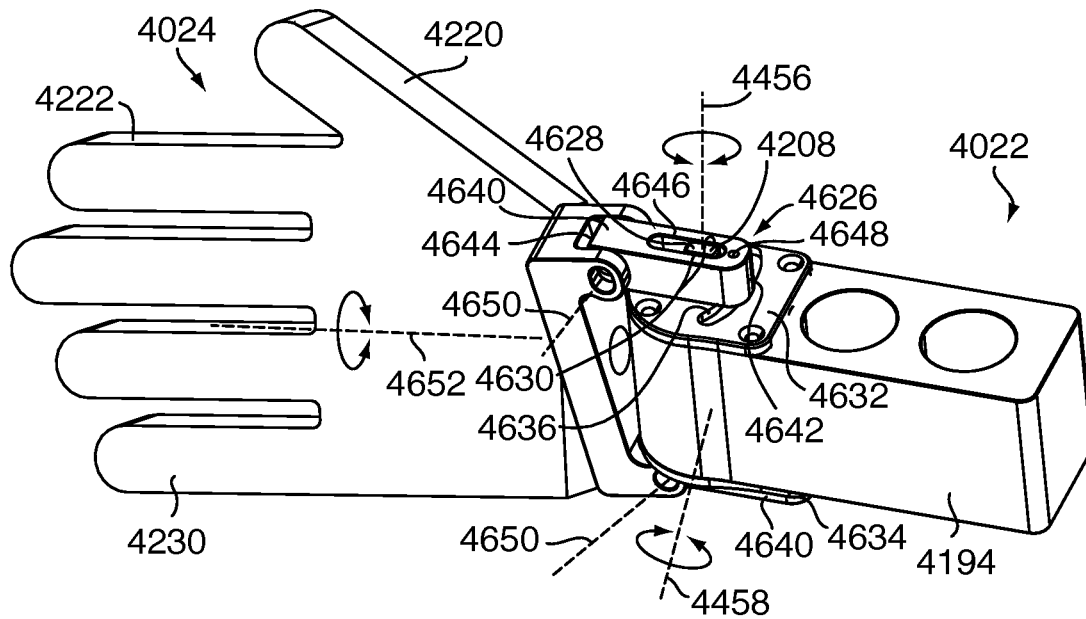


FIG. 76

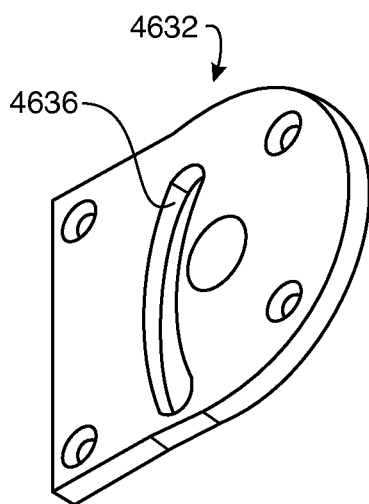


FIG. 77

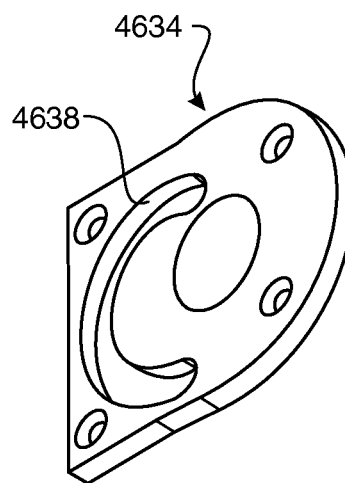
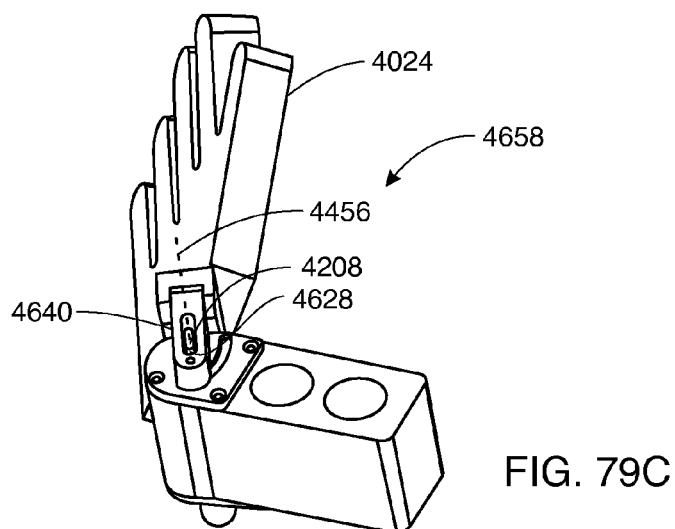
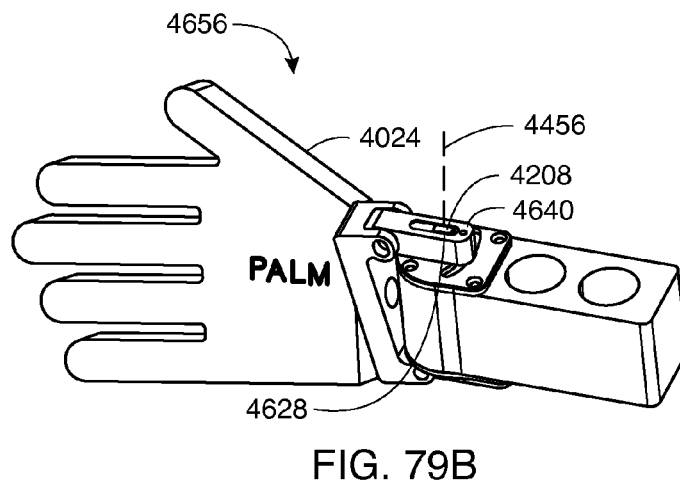
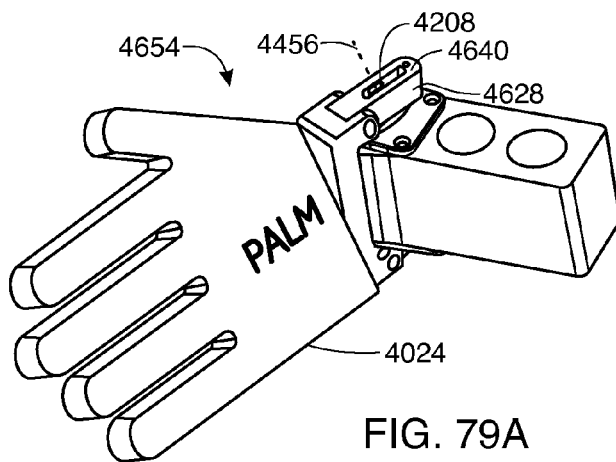


FIG. 78



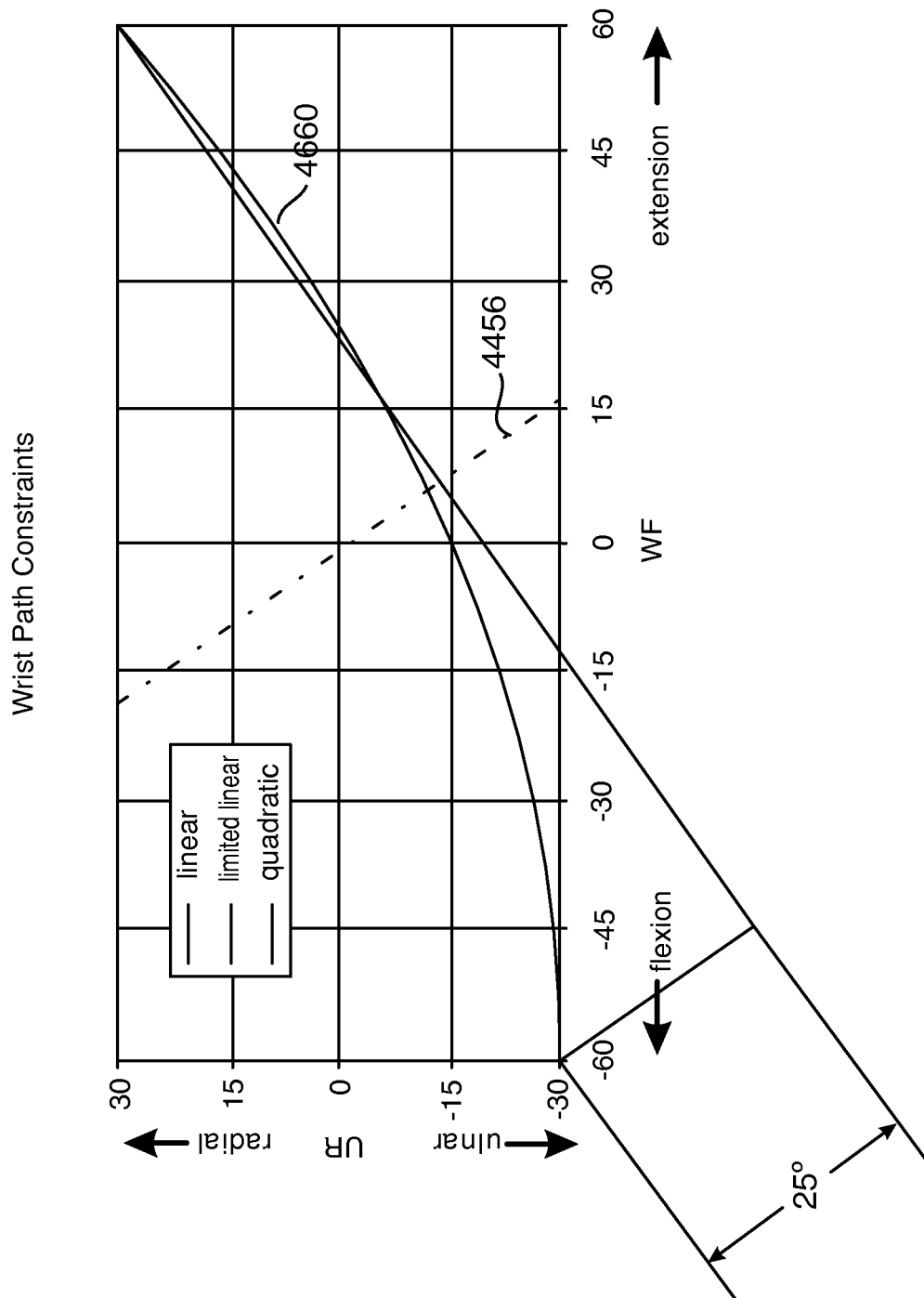


FIG. 80

1

**ARM PROSTHETIC DEVICE****CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/706,609, filed Feb. 16, 2010, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,449,624, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/027,141, filed Feb. 6, 2008, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,114,028, which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/899,833, filed Feb. 6, 2007, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/963,639, filed Aug. 6, 2007, each of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 12/706,609, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,449,624, also claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/168,786, filed Apr. 13, 2009, which is also hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

**STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT INTEREST**

This invention was made with Government support under Contract Number W911NF-09-C-0035 awarded by the U.S. Army RDECOM ACQ CTR. The Government has certain rights in the invention.

**TECHNICAL FIELD**

The present development relates to mechanical and medical devices and, more particularly, to prosthetic devices. More particularly, the development utilizes mechanical structure and user or motor stimuli to operate a prosthesis similarly to a human limb.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Existing prosthetic arms have limited movement for the user. Further, there are limited options for those patients who have lost their entire arm, shoulder to hand. Also, hand portions of existing prosthetic arms give the user, in many instances, one degree of movement. These known prosthetic devices provide limited capability with respect to, amongst other things, finer tasks.

Accordingly, there is a need for a prosthetic arm that replaces an arm from shoulder to hand and that has increased degrees of freedom. There is also a need for a prosthetic hand that moves in a realistic manner.

**SUMMARY**

It is one aspect of the present device to provide a prosthetic device that will allow the user improved range of motion, improved tactile capabilities, increased comfort for the user, and decreased reliance on manual positioning of the prosthesis.

In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the present device employs a compliant structure that incorporates a shoulder flexion joint, a shoulder abduction joint, a humeral rotator, an elbow flexion joint, a wrist rotation joint, and a wrist flexion joint. The present device also discloses a hand assembly having compliance.

In accordance with one embodiment of the device, the shoulder flexion joint assembly includes a motor, a belt, a pulley, a gear train, a harmonic drive gearing system, a potentiometer, a nonbackdriving clutch, and a compliance sensor. The electrically driven motor rotor drives the belt that is defined by two pulleys. The first pulley is driven by the motor

2

rotor. The second pulley is driven by the belt and engages the harmonic drive gearing system. The harmonic drive gearing system has an interior wave generator that corresponds with the flexible spline. The spline in turn engages the exterior circular spline, resulting in drastic reduction rates and driving the shoulder output flange, allowing the shoulder joint flexion movement.

In accordance with another aspect of the shoulder flexion joint, the joint assembly also discloses a clutch. The clutch has an input cage, an output hex, and a clutch race, or ground. When the shoulder flexion joint is acted upon by an output force, the output hex is engaged in a friction lock with the clutch race and bearings lining the exterior of the output hex, preventing backward transfer of power through the clutch.

In accordance with another aspect of the shoulder flexion joint, the joint assembly also discloses a shoulder compliance sensor. The sensor provides the shoulder flexion joint with measured compliance. The sensor utilizes the interior rim of the circular spline of the harmonic drive gearing system. The exterior rim of the circular spline additionally accommodates stationary reactor elements and series elastic elements. The circular spline, series elastic elements and reactor elements are circumferentially disposed around the interior of a clamp. Together, the clamp and a compliance reactor substantially enclose the circular spline, series elastic elements, and reactor elements. The clamp and compliance reactor remain stationary while the circular spline, series elastic elements, and reactor elements are rotatably disposed around the exterior rim of the spline. Additionally, a magnet is disposed on the exterior rim of the circular spline for measuring compliance. Upon application of force, the position of the circular spline alters causing the series elastic elements to compress against the reactor elements. The movement of the reactor elements transmits the rotational displacement of the circular spline via the reactor movement in relation to the stationary magnet. In this manner, the compliance is built into the shoulder flexion joint and works to absorb energy when the joint is subjected to a load or an unexpected shock.

In accordance with the shoulder abduction joint, the joint features a shoulder flexion mount. The shoulder flexion joint fastens to the shoulder flexion mount. The abductor also discloses a harness mount.

The humeral rotator may feature a harmonic drive gearing system, a motor, a motor armature, a potentiometer and a humeral mount. The support structure of the humeral rotator has a humeral mount site at the output of the rotator. The motor drives the motor armature, which in turn drives the wave generator of the harmonic drive gearing system. The wave generator drives the interior flexible spline, which in turn interacts with the outer circular spline. The circular spline then drives the rotational movement of the humeral rotator.

In further accordance with an aspect of the humeral rotation site, the potentiometer features a position potentiometer and a potentiometer shaft for position measurement.

In accordance with another embodiment of the device, the elbow flexion joint is further comprised of a motor armature, a motor rotor, a motor rotor magnet integrated into the motor rotor, a sun gear also integrated into the motor rotor, a plurality of planet gears, a ring gear, a harmonic drive gearing system, and a potentiometer.

In accordance with another aspect of the elbow flexion joint, the motor armature applies electrical force to the motor rotor magnet integrated onto the surface of the motor rotor. The motor rotor in turn rotationally drives the sun gear also integrated on the motor rotor. The sun gear rotationally drives the four planet gears. The planet gears in turn react against the

3

stationary ring gear to effect rotation of the carrier plate, providing the first stage of reduction.

In accordance with a further aspect of the elbow flexion joint, the carrier plate drives the harmonic drive gearing system wave generator. The harmonic drive gearing system has an interior wave generator that corresponds with the flexible spline. The spline in turn engages the exterior circular spline, resulting in drastic reduction rates and driving the elbow output, allowing the elbow flexion joint movement.

In accordance with a further aspect of the elbow flexion joint, the elbow flexion joint also discloses a compliance sensor. The sensor provides the elbow flexion joint with measured compliance. The sensor utilizes the interior rim of the circular spline of the harmonic drive gearing system. The exterior rim of the circular spline additionally accommodates stationary reactor elements and series elastic elements. The circular spline, series elastic elements and reactor elements are circumferentially disposed around the interior of a clamp. Together, the clamp and a compliance reactor substantially enclose the circular spline, series elastic elements, and reactor elements. The clamp and compliance reactor remain stationary while the circular spline, series elastic elements, and reactor elements are rotatably disposed around the exterior rim of the spline. Additionally, a magnet is disposed on the exterior rim of the circular spline. Upon application of force, the position of the circular spline alters causing the series elastic elements to compress against the reactor elements. The movement of the reactor elements transmits the rotational displacement of the circular spline via the reactor movement in relation to the stationary magnet. In this manner, the compliance is built into the elbow flexion joint and works to absorb energy when the joint is subjected to a load or an unexpected shock.

The wrist rotation site features a harmonic drive gearing system, a motor, a motor armature, and a potentiometer. The motor drives the motor armature, which in turn drives the wave generator of the harmonic drive gearing system. The wave generator drives the interior flexible spline, which in turn interacts with the outer circular spline. The circular spline then drives the rotational movement of the wrist rotor.

In further accordance with an aspect of the wrist rotation site, the potentiometer features a position potentiometer and a potentiometer shaft for position measurement.

The wrist flexion joint is further comprised of a motor, an output arm, a gear train, and series elastic elements. The wrist flexion joint is driven by a motor that in turn drives the gear train. A final stage-driven gear transfers power to the output arm. The output arm connects to the main wrist flexion joint by a pivot axle.

In further accordance with an aspect of the wrist flexion joint, the output arm contains series elastic elements, a compliance sensor magnet, and a drive arm. The exterior casing of the output arm encloses the drive arm, which features at one end of the arm an opening defined to accept the pivot axle. The opposing end of the arm may include a compliance magnetic sensor for compliance sensing. Disposed laterally at either side of the drive arm is a series elastic element.

In accordance with another aspect of the present device, the hand assembly is comprised of structures replicating a thumb, an index finger, and the grouping of the middle, ring, and pinky fingers. The thumb structure is driven by two parallel actuators that provide the structure with two inputs and two outputs. The two parallel actuators give the thumb structure opposition movement with the index finger and lateral movement. The two actuators are connected in parallel and fixed to the interior structure of the hand assembly. The thumb struc-

4

ture also features a flexural element separating the base of the thumb structure from the load-bearing portion of the structure. The base portion of the structure houses a sensor measuring the displacement of the loaded portion of the thumb relative to the thumb structure rest position. The load-bearing portion of the thumb structure contains a magnet whose displacement the sensor measures. In one embodiment of the thumb structure, the flexural structure is provided by linear flexural elements. Another embodiment of the thumb structure provides for spiral flexural elements. The sensor measuring displacement allows a calculation of the compliance to the thumb in both directions. The measured compliance allows continuous measurement of the force applied to the thumb structure in both directions.

In accordance with another aspect of the present device, the index finger structure of the hand assembly contains a rotating element at the base of the index finger that drives the motion of the finger. The index finger structure may be comprised of three joints. First, a base joint that is connected to the rotating element. The base joint supports the lower phalanx structure. The lower phalanx structure terminates at the middle joint. The middle joint then supports the middle phalanx structure. The middle phalanx structure terminates at the farthest joint. The farthest joint then supports the upper phalanx structure. In some embodiments, the index finger structure may include only two joints, with the middle phalanx structure and the upper phalanx structure being combined into a single integrated phalanx structure.

In further accordance with the present device, the index finger structure and its integrated phalanx structures are kinematically determinate based on the rotation of the base element. When driven by the rotating element, the index finger structure is constrained to follow a set trajectory, enabling precise dexterity of index finger movement. In this way, the user can rely on the fixed trajectory of the index finger to perform fine tasks, such as pinching or retrieving small objects. In another embodiment of the index finger, the middle phalanx structure is fixedly joined to the upper phalanx structure.

In accordance with another aspect of the present device, the middle, ring, and pinky finger structures (MRP structures) are integrated into the hand assembly. Each of the three structures originates with a base joint supporting a lower phalanx structure. Each lower phalanx structure terminates at a middle joint. Each middle joint then supports a middle phalanx structure. Each middle phalanx joint terminates at a farthest joint. Each farthest joint then supports an upper phalanx structure.

Each individual MRP structure features an indeterminate linkage between the base joint and middle joint, and a deterministic linkage between the middle joint and farthest joint. As a result, the base and middle joints of the individual finger structures will continue to operate until the joint motion is impeded. During a grasping action, the middle phalanx structure will continue to operate even if the base phalanx structure is impeded by the object being grasped. This indeterminate linkage assists in creating a conforming grasp for the hand structure and is enabled by the double differential of the MRP transmissions.

Additionally, the MRP structures have indeterminate gear sets allowing the three structures to move separately in order to grasp or conform around an obstacle. Two differential gear sets incorporated into the hand assembly structure drive the MRP structures. The first differential gear is driven by the actuator and has outputs at the rotating element of one finger structure and at the input of the second differential gear. The second differential gear has outputs at the rotating elements of the remaining fingers. As one actuator drives all three MRP

5

structures separately, the MRP structures are linked and under-actuated. As a result of the differential gear assembly, if one MRP structure encounters an obstacle, it will stop, but the other MRP structures will still move freely until they encounter an obstacle.

In accordance with another aspect of the present device, a non-backdriveable clutch controls the reaction of the thumb structure, the index finger structure and the linked MRP structures to the application of an output load. This embodiment of the clutch provides that any output torque on the hand assembly will result in a friction lock of the clutch. In this embodiment, the output hex of the clutch locks against the input spline and the bearings disposed between the output and input. Further, this embodiment of the clutch provides that upon sufficient input torque, the clutch unlocks and allows additional input movement without the user having to manually reset the hand assembly.

In accordance with another aspect of the present device, a planetary gear stage transfers torque from the actuator to the output stage. The actuator drives the planetary stage's ring gear which, through interaction with the planet gears, drives the planet's carrier, which then drives the output stage. The sun gear is attached through a spring to ground. Any torque applied to the planetary stage will cause a displacement of the sun gear until the torque is balanced by the displacement of the spring. Thus, the spring stores elastic energy and increases the compliance of the index structure. The use of the spring attached to the sun gear allows measurement of load on the structures without the addition of a load cell.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present device, a stage driver and timing belt transfer torque to the index finger structure and the MRP structures. The stage driver transfers the torque to the timing belt, loosening one side of the timing belt and tightening the opposite side. In further accordance with the current device, a tensioner positioned between the stage driver and its corresponding pulley displaces as the tension of the timing belt changes. The tensioner displacement stores energy. Inference of the load applied to the structure can be based upon that displacement. The use of this tensioner allows measurement of load on the structures without the addition of a load cell. The tensioner additionally stores elastic energy and increases the compliance of the structures.

These aspects of the invention are not meant to be exclusive and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present invention will be readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art when read in conjunction with the appended claims and accompanying drawings.

The same compliance method is applied to the MRP drive, allowing it to store elastic energy.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other features and advantages of the present invention will be better understood by reading the following detailed description, taken together with the drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of a prosthetic arm apparatus according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an exploded view of the prosthetic arm apparatus of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a rear view of a shoulder abductor of the prosthetic arm apparatus of FIG. 1 according to the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a front view of the shoulder abductor of FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is a side view of the shoulder abductor of FIG. 3;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of the shoulder abductor of FIG. 3;

6

FIG. 7 is an exploded perspective view of the shoulder abductor of FIG. 6;

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of a shoulder flexion assembly of the prosthetic arm apparatus of FIG. 1 according to the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a reverse perspective view of the shoulder flexion assembly of FIG. 8;

FIG. 10 is an exploded perspective view of the shoulder flexion assembly of FIG. 8;

FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional perspective view of the shoulder flexion assembly of FIG. 8;

FIG. 12 is a top view of a non-backdriving clutch according to the present invention;

FIG. 13 is a perspective view of a fully assembled compliance subassembly of the shoulder flexion assembly of FIG. 8;

FIG. 14 is a perspective view of the bottom portion of the compliance subassembly of FIG. 13;

FIG. 15 is a perspective view of the top portion of the compliance subassembly of FIG. 13;

FIG. 16 is a perspective view of a humeral rotator of the prosthetic arm apparatus of FIG. 1 according to the present invention;

FIG. 17 is a cross-sectional perspective view of the humeral rotator of FIG. 16;

FIG. 18 is a perspective view of an elbow flexion assembly of the prosthetic arm apparatus of FIG. 1 according to the present invention;

FIG. 19 is a cross-sectional perspective view of one embodiment of the elbow flexion assembly shown without the radial mount;

FIG. 20 is a cross-sectional perspective view of the elbow flexion assembly shown with the radial mount;

FIG. 21 is a perspective view showing the compliance subassembly of the elbow flexion assembly of FIG. 19;

FIG. 22 is an exploded perspective view of the elbow flexion assembly of FIG. 18;

FIG. 23 is a perspective view of a wrist rotator of the prosthetic arm apparatus of FIG. 1 according to the present invention;

FIG. 24 is a cross-sectional perspective view of the wrist rotator of FIG. 23;

FIG. 25 is a perspective view of a wrist flexion assembly and a hand control module of the prosthetic arm apparatus of FIG. 1 according to the present invention;

FIG. 26 is a rear perspective view of the wrist flexion assembly and hand control module of FIG. 25;

FIG. 27 is a cross-sectional perspective view of the wrist flexion assembly and hand control module of FIG. 25;

FIG. 28 is a perspective view of a wrist assembly output arm of FIG. 25;

FIG. 29 is a side view of a hand assembly of the prosthetic arm apparatus of FIG. 1 according to one embodiment;

FIG. 30 is a front view of one embodiment of the hand assembly of FIG. 29;

FIG. 31 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the hand assembly of FIG. 29 showing an index finger tensioner assembly;

FIG. 32 is a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of the hand assembly of FIG. 29 showing an MRP tensioner assembly;

FIG. 33 is a front cross-sectional view of one embodiment of the MRP differential drive of FIG. 30;

FIG. 34 is a front cross-sectional view of one embodiment of thumb differential drives of FIG. 30;

FIG. 35 is a side view of one embodiment of the hand assembly of FIG. 30 showing a tactile feedback sensor according to the present invention;

FIG. 36 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the tactile feedback sensor and a feedback actuator of the prosthetic arm apparatus of FIG. 1;

FIG. 37 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the tactile feedback sensor and feedback actuator of the prosthetic arm apparatus of FIG. 1 according to the present invention;

FIG. 38 is an exploded view of a portion of the hand showing another embodiment of the index and MRP fingers drives;

FIG. 39 is an exploded view of another embodiment of the hand;

FIG. 40 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the hand;

FIG. 41 is a perspective cutaway view of the hand;

FIG. 42 shows an embodiment of an integrated shoulder unit according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 43 is a partial cutaway view of the integrated shoulder unit of FIG. 42 in an inactuated state;

FIG. 44 is a partial cutaway view of the integrated shoulder unit of FIG. 42 in an actuated state;

FIG. 45 is a cross sectional view of another embodiment of an integrated shoulder unit according to the present invention;

FIG. 46 is a cross sectional view of another embodiment of the integrated shoulder unit of FIG. 45;

FIG. 47 is a top view of a shoulder abductor and shoulder flexion assembly according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 48 is a side plane view of shoulder flexion assembly mount of the shoulder abductor of FIG. 47;

FIG. 49 is a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of a rotator according to the present invention;

FIG. 50 is a side view of one embodiment of a flexion assembly according to the present invention;

FIG. 51 is a front view of the flexion assembly of FIG. 50;

FIG. 52 is a perspective view of another embodiment of a wrist flexion assembly according to the present invention;

FIG. 53 is a partially exploded perspective view of the wrist flexion assembly of FIG. 52;

FIG. 54 is a top cross-sectional view of the wrist flexion assembly of FIG. 52;

FIG. 55 is a top cross-sectional view of the wrist flexion assembly of FIG. 52;

FIG. 56 is a cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a wrist flexion assembly according to the present invention;

FIG. 57 is a partial cross sectional view of another embodiment of the non-backdriving clutch of FIG. 12;

FIG. 58 is a perspective view of a compliance assembly according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 59 is a side view of a breakaway mechanism according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 60 is a front cross-sectional view of the breakaway mechanism of FIG. 59;

FIG. 61A-63B are various views of another embodiment of a breakaway mechanism according to the present invention;

FIG. 64 is a front view of a magnetic sensor according to some embodiments of the present invention;

FIG. 65 is a side cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a magnetic sensor according to the present invention;

FIG. 66 is a cross-sectional view of a hand assembly according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 67 is a front view of a hand assembly cosmesis according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 68A is a front view of an embodiment of the cosmesis of FIG. 67 with removable finger portions;

FIG. 68B is a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a finger structure cosmesis of FIG. 68A;

FIG. 69 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the cosmesis of FIG. 67;

FIG. 70 is a perspective view of a prosthetic arm apparatus having a temperature sensor according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 71 is a side view of a thumb structure according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 72 is a side cross-sectional view of the thumb structure of FIG. 71;

FIG. 73 is a side cross-sectional view of the thumb structure of FIG. 71 under a load;

FIG. 74 is a top view of a humeral rotator and an elbow flexion assembly according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 75A is a perspective view of a prosthetic arm apparatus having an emergency switch according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 75B is a perspective view of a prosthetic arm apparatus having an emergency switch according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 76 is a perspective view of a wrist flexion assembly according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 77 is a perspective view of a first cam bearing of the wrist flexion assembly of FIG. 76;

FIG. 78 is a perspective view of a second cam bearing of the wrist flexion assembly of FIG. 76;

FIG. 79A is a perspective view of the wrist flexion assembly of FIG. 76 in a first position;

FIG. 79B is a perspective view of the wrist flexion assembly of FIG. 76 in a second position;

FIG. 79C is a perspective view of the wrist flexion assembly of FIG. 76 in a third position; and

FIG. 80 is a line graph of a fixed movement path of the wrist flexion assembly of FIG. 76.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, a prosthetic arm apparatus 10 for attachment to a shoulder of a shoulder disarticulated amputee includes a plurality of segments, including a shoulder abductor 12, a shoulder flexion assembly 14, a humeral rotator 16, an elbow flexion assembly 18, a wrist rotator 20, a wrist flexion assembly 22, and a hand assembly 24. The prosthetic arm apparatus 10, in the exemplary embodiment, has the dimensions and weight of a female arm of a fiftieth percentile, so that many different users may comfortably use the prosthetic arm apparatus 10. As should be understood by those skilled in the art, the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 may be constructed to larger or smaller dimensions if desired. The prosthetic arm apparatus 10 may be controlled by a control system (not shown), such as the various control systems described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/027,116, filed Feb. 6, 2008, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,821,587, U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/706,575, filed Feb. 16, 2010, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,864,845, and U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/706,471, filed Feb. 16, 2010, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,453,340, each of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Referring to FIG. 3, one embodiment of the shoulder abductor 12 is shown. The shoulder abductor 12 includes a harness mount 26 for connecting the prosthetic arm apparatus 10, shown in FIG. 1, to a support apparatus, as the various prosthetic supports described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/026,971, filed Feb. 6, 2008, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,870,970, and U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/706,340, filed Feb. 16, 2010, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,074,559, each of which is

hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. The harness mount **26** has harness interface holes **28** that may be used to attach the abductor **12** to a prosthetic harness (not shown) or other system for supporting the prosthetic arm apparatus **10**. In the exemplary embodiment, the harness or prosthetic support apparatus may also be one disclosed in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/026,971, filed Feb. 6, 2008, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,870,970, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Referring to FIG. 4, the shoulder abductor **12** also has a shoulder flexion assembly mount **30**, shown according to one embodiment. The shoulder flexion assembly mount **30** interfaces with the shoulder flexion assembly **14** to mount the shoulder flexion assembly **14** onto the shoulder abductor **12**. In one embodiment, the flexion assembly mount **30** has interface holes **32** to facilitate connection of the shoulder flexion assembly **14** by attachment means such as bolts.

Referring to FIG. 5, the shoulder abductor **12** further includes an abductor joint **34**, shown according to one embodiment. The abductor joint **34** is used to pivot the shoulder flexion assembly mount **30** away from the harness mount **26** and back toward the harness mount **26**.

Referring to FIGS. 6 and 7, the shoulder abductor **12** includes an abductor motor **36** to control the pivotal movement of the abductor joint **34**, shown in FIG. 5, both the shoulder abductor **12** and abductor motor **36** shown according to one embodiment. In this embodiment, the abductor motor **36** is a brushed DC motor controlling the pivotal movement through an abductor belt **38** connected to a worm drive **41** driving a worm wheel **39** connected to an abductor harmonic drive gearing system **40**.

Referring to FIGS. 8 and 9, the shoulder flexion assembly **14**, in one embodiment, has a main shoulder housing **42**, with an abductor interface **44** for connecting the shoulder flexion assembly **14** to the shoulder abductor **12**. The shoulder flexion assembly **14** also has a humeral interface **46** for connecting the humeral rotator **16** to the shoulder flexion assembly **14**.

Referring to FIGS. 10 and 11, in one embodiment, shoulder flexion motor magnets **52** are disposed around a shaft **58** of a shoulder flexion motor rotor **54**. In this embodiment, a shoulder flexion motor armature **55** drives the shoulder flexion motor rotor **54**, which in turn drives a shoulder flexion motor pulley **56** around a motor shaft **58**. The shoulder flexion motor pulley **56** supports a shoulder flexion belt **60**, which is linked between the shoulder flexion motor pulley **56** and a shoulder flexion belt-driven pulley **62**. The shoulder flexion belt-driven pulley **62** drives a shoulder flexion harmonic drive gearing system wave generator **64**. A shoulder flexion harmonic drive gearing system flexspline **66** rotates against the shoulder flexion harmonic drive gearing system wave generator **64** and a shoulder flexion harmonic drive gearing system circular spline **68**, resulting in reduced speed for the joint movement. The shoulder flexion harmonic drive gearing system flexspline **66** is connected to the abductor interface **44**, and is thus able to rotate the shoulder flexion assembly **14** in reference to the abductor interface.

Referring to FIG. 11, in one embodiment, a non-backdriving clutch **70** is disposed inside the main shoulder housing **42**. The non-backdriving clutch **70** allows the prosthetic arm **10** to hold position by locking when the prosthetic arm **10** is not moving.

Referring to FIG. 11 and FIG. 12, in one embodiment, roller bearings **72** line the interface between an input cage **74** and an output hex **76**. When a force is applied to the shoulder abductor interface **44**, the output hex **76** locks against the bearing race **78** and the roller bearings **72**. This prevents the

shoulder flexion assembly **14** from moving due to force applied to its output, shoulder abductor interface **44**. Upon the exertion of a necessary amount of input force through the clutch input cage **74**, the output hex **76** disengages and allows the shoulder flexion assembly **14** to move. The clutch input cage **74** and the output hex **76** are both constrained by a clutch race **78**. It should be understood by those skilled in the art, that other mechanisms could be used to prevent backdriving of the prosthetic arm **10**, such as a clutch that locks in one direction or a solenoid with brakes that engage when the solenoid is powered. Additionally, although described in connection with the shoulder flexion assembly **14**, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that the non-backdriving clutch **70** may be included in other prosthetic joints described herein.

Referring to FIG. 13, in one embodiment, a compliance subassembly **50**, shown in FIG. 11, includes a compliance reactor **80** positioned on top of the shoulder flexion harmonic drive gearing system circular spline **68**, shown in FIG. 10, and held in place by the clamp **82**. The compliance reactor **80** measures the amount of displacement in the compliance subassembly **50** in relation to the position of a compliance sensor magnet **84**.

Referring to FIG. 14, in one embodiment, the interior of compliance subassembly **50** includes series elastic elements **86**. The shoulder flexion harmonic drive gearing system circular spline **68** defines the interior of the compliance subassembly **50** and is formed to accommodate the placement of the series elastic elements **86** around an outer diameter **87** of the shoulder flexion harmonic drive gearing system circular spline **68**. The series elastic elements **86** are confined by the shoulder flexion harmonic drive gearing system circular spline **68** and the clamp **82**.

Referring to FIG. 15, the placement of the compliance reactor **80** in relation to the series elastic elements **86** and reactor elements **88** is shown. In this embodiment, three reactor elements **88** are positioned around the compliance reactor **80**, equidistant to each other. One series elastic element **86** is placed on either side of each reactor element **88**. When the shoulder flexion assembly **14** is subjected to unexpected force, such as a sudden jolt or impact, the compliance reactor **80** and reactor elements **88** displace from their rest positions and compress against the series elastic elements **86**. In that way, the compliance subassembly **50** attenuates the shock being transferred to the rest of the shoulder flexion assembly **14**. The compliance reactor **80** may also measure the amount of displacement and compliance by measuring the movement of the compliance reactor **80** in relation to the stationary position of the compliance sensor magnet **84**.

Referring to FIG. 16, one embodiment of the humeral rotator **16** is shown. The humeral rotator **16** includes an outer bearing carrier **90** attached to the first control housing **92**, shown in FIG. 2. The first control housing **92**, shown in FIG. 2, is used to connect the humeral rotator **16** to the shoulder flexion assembly **14**. The inner rotational elements of the humeral rotator are held in place by a clamp **94**, which is fastened to the outer bearing carrier **90**. A humeral mount **96** passes through the clamp **94** and includes an elbow interface **98** for attaching the elbow flexion assembly **18** to the humeral rotator **16**.

FIG. 17 shows a cross-sectional view of the humeral rotator **16**. A humeral motor armature **100** drives a humeral motor rotor **102** having humeral magnets **104** disposed on its surface. The lower portion of the motor rotor **102** engages a humeral harmonic drive gearing system wave generator **106**. A humeral harmonic drive gearing system flexspline **108** rotates with the humeral harmonic drive gearing system wave

## 11

generator 106 against the humeral harmonic drive gearing system circular spline 110, resulting in a speed of rotation reduction as the humeral harmonic drive gearing system flexspline 108 causes the humeral mount 96 to move. Bearings 111 and 113 support the humeral motor rotor 102. Bearings 112 support the harmonic drive gearing system components 106, 108, 110. A bearing support 114 caps the outer bearing carrier 90 between the outer bearing carrier 90 and the first control housing 92, shown in FIGS. 16 and 2, respectively.

Still referring to FIG. 17, the one embodiment, a humeral potentiometer 116 of the humeral rotator 16, measures the rotational displacement of a humeral potentiometer shaft 118 that rotates proportionately to the humeral mount 96.

Referring to FIG. 18, the elbow flexion assembly 18 includes an elbow joint 120 and a radial mount 122. The elbow joint 120 includes a slot 124 into which the elbow interface 98 of the humeral rotator is inserted to facilitate connection of the elbow flexion assembly 18 to the humeral rotator 16. The radial mount 122 provides a second electronics housing 126, in which an ACM stack 128 is located. "ACM" as used herein refers to Arm Control Module. The radial mount 122 includes a wrist interface 130, for attachment of the wrist rotator 20.

Referring to FIG. 19, the elbow joint 120 includes an elbow motor armature 132 that drives an elbow motor rotor 134. Elbow magnets 136 are disposed at one end of the motor rotor 134, and the opposing end of the motor rotor 134 has a sun gear 138. As the motor armature 132 drives the sun gear 138, the sun gear 138 in turn drives four planetary gears 140 positioned equidistant from each other around the sun gear 138. The four planetary gears 140 in turn react against a ring gear 142, giving the elbow flexion assembly 18 a first stage of speed reduction through an elbow harmonic drive gearing system wave generator 148 which also acts as the planet carrier. The elbow harmonic drive gearing system wave generator 148 powers the elbow harmonic drive gearing system flexspline 146, which drives against the elbow harmonic drive gearing system circular spline 144, giving the elbow flexion assembly 18 a second stage of reduction. The elbow harmonic drive gearing system flexspline 146 then drives the motion of the elbow flexion assembly 18. Bearings 150 and crossed roller bearings 152 support the outer perimeter of the elbow flexion assembly 18. Although described with both a planetary gear system and an elbow harmonic drive gearing system, the elbow flexion assembly 18 could be controlled solely by a harmonic drive gearing system by changing the gear reduction ratio.

In various embodiments, it may be desirable to avoid having to perform additional measurement by using the measurement in the compliance process. One example includes, in various embodiments, where the planetary gears may be used for compliance and measurement of load.

Referring to FIG. 20, in the embodiment shown, the radial mount 122 is structurally fixed to the elbow joint 120, such that when the elbow joint is actuated, the radial mount 122 moves.

Referring to FIG. 21, an elbow compliance subassembly 154 is incorporated into the elbow flexion assembly 18. A plurality of arms 156 extends from the center portion of the elbow compliance subassembly 154. Each arm 156 has an elbow series elastic element 158 disposed on either side of the arm 156. Similar to the shoulder flexion assembly 14, if the elbow flexion assembly 18 is subject to a torque, the elbow compliance subassembly 154, with its series elastic elements 158, is capable of absorbing the shock attenuating the torque magnitude through the rest of the elbow flexion assembly 18.

## 12

Referring to FIG. 22, the ACM stack 128, includes circuit boards 160 connected to one another by structural standoffs 162. The structural standoffs 162 are constructed of a conductive material, so that electrical power may be passed through the circuit boards 160. The structural standoffs allow power to be supplied to each circuit board 160 without conventional power connections.

Referring to FIG. 23, the wrist rotator 20 includes a wrist outer bearing carrier 164, a wrist clamp 166, a wrist potentiometer 168, an elbow interface 170, and a wrist flexion assembly interface 172.

Referring to FIG. 24, movement of the wrist rotator 20 is controlled by a harmonic drive gearing system similar to that described for the humeral rotator. A wrist rotator motor armature 174 drives a wrist rotator motor rotor 176 having wrist rotator magnets 178 disposed to its surface. The lower portion of the wrist rotator motor rotor 176 integrates a wrist rotator harmonic drive gearing system wave generator 180. A wrist rotator harmonic drive gearing system flexspline 182 rotates with the wrist rotator harmonic drive gearing system wave generator 180 against a wrist rotator harmonic drive gearing system circular spline 184, resulting in reduction in the speed of rotation as the wrist rotator harmonic drive gearing system flexspline 182 causes the wrist flexion assembly interface 172 to move with respect to the rest of the wrist rotator 20. Bearings 185 support the wrist rotator motor rotor 176. Bearings 186 support the harmonic drive gearing system components 180, 182, and 184.

Still referring to FIG. 24, the wrist potentiometer 168 of the wrist rotator 20 is disposed at one end of a wrist shaft 188 and measures the rotational displacement thereof. The wrist shaft 188 may be tubular, having an electronics channel 190 for passing electronic power and controls through the wrist rotator 20.

Referring to FIG. 25, the wrist flexion assembly 22 includes hand control module circuit boards 192, an input support structure 194, an output arm 196, and a hand interface 198. The input support structure 194 connects the wrist rotator 20 with the wrist flexion assembly 22. The output arm 196 has positive and negative flexion, such that the output arm 196 is able to move in two opposite directions in reference to the support structure 194. The hand interface 198 allows the hand assembly 24 to be connected to the wrist flexion assembly 22. Referring to FIG. 26, the wrist flexion assembly 22, has wrist electrical connections 200 for supplying power to a wrist flexion motor 202.

Referring to FIG. 27, in the embodiment shown, the wrist flexion motor 202 drives a wrist flexion output gear 204, which in turn drives a wrist flexion final stage-driven gear 206. A wrist flexion pivot axle 208 of the output arm 196 is axially disposed inside an opening defined by the interior of the wrist flexion final stage-driven gear 206. Wrist flexion series elastic elements 210 are disposed in the interior of the output arm 196. Movement of the wrist flexion final stage-driven gear 206 facilitates the positive and negative motion of the output arm 196. A non-backdriving clutch 212 is disposed at one end of the wrist flexion output gear 204.

Referring to FIG. 28, the output arm 196 has a wrist flexion drive arm 214, which is driven by the wrist flexion final stage-driven gear 206. The end of the wrist flexion drive arm 214 accommodates a wrist flexion compliance sensor magnet 216. The wrist flexion series elastic elements 210 are disposed on either side of the wrist flexion drive arm 214, and the wrist flexion series elastic elements 210 and the drive arm 214 are substantially enclosed within the output arm 196. Similar to the elbow flexion assembly 18 and the shoulder flexion assembly 14, if the wrist flexion assembly 22 is subjected to

13

a force, the wrist flexion drive arm **214** compresses the wrist flexion series elastic elements **210** and attenuates the force or impact through the rest of the wrist flexion assembly **22**.

The following is a description of one embodiment of the hand assembly. Other embodiments of the hand assembly are described and shown elsewhere in this specification. Referring to FIGS. **29** and **30** the hand assembly **24** includes a hand support **218** for providing an interface for connecting the hand assembly **24** to the wrist flexion output arm **196**. The hand assembly **24** also includes a thumb structure **220**, an index finger structure **222**, and an MRP structure **224** replicating a middle finger **226**, a ring finger **228**, and a pinky finger **230**. In various embodiments, the thumb structure **220** may be driven by two thumb drives **232** that feed into a single differential, giving the thumb structure **220** two degrees of freedom of movement. The index finger structure **222** may be driven by a single index drive **234** and the MRP structure **224** may be driven by a single MRP drive **236** that feeds a double differential. The MRP approach allows for an indeterminate versus determinate linkage.

Referring to FIG. **31**, the index finger structure **222** (not shown) is driven by the index drive **234** through an index drive pulley **238**, an index tensioner **240**, an index tension belt **242**, and an index finger pulley **244**. The index drive pulley **238** is stage driven and transfers the torque to the index tension belt **242**, which in turn rotates the index finger pulley **244**, causing the index finger structure **222** to move. As the index tension belt **242** transfers the torque, one side of the index tension belt **242** tightens and the other side loosens, depending on which direction the index drive pulley **238** is rotated. The index tensioner **240** is located between the index drive pulley **238** and the index finger pulley **244** and the index tensioner **240** displaces in relation to the change in load to maintain the tension of the index tension belt **242**. The index tensioner **240** has one side grounded and the other side capable of displacement upon the application of a load. The index tensioner **240** may instead ground the moveable side of the index tensioner **240** with a spring.

Referring to FIG. **38**, in another embodiment, the index finger structure **222** is driven through an index sun shaft **350**, a set of index planets **352**, an index planet carrier **354**, an index ring gear **356**, and an index drive gear **358**. The index drive **360** drives the index ring gear **356**, turning the index planets **352**, the turning of which causes the index planet carrier **354** to rotate. The index drive gear **358** is driven by the external teeth of the index planet carrier **354**, causing the index structure **222** to move. Any torque transmitted by the index planet carrier **354** will react against the index sun shaft **350** causing it to rotationally displace the index spring **362** through the index spring mount **364**. This rotational displacement, sensed by an index potentiometer **366** can be used to infer the load on the index finger structure **222**. This rotational displacement may be used to store elastic energy and to provide the index finger structure **222** with a measure of compliance that may aid in gripping and with load absorption.

Referring to FIG. **31**, the thumb structure **220** is mounted on a thumb support **246**, which is driven by the two thumb differential drives **232**. The thumb structure **220** has flexural cuts **248** at its base allowing the compliant thumb structure **220** to move when a load is applied to it. This compliance in the thumb structure **220** may aid in gripping and with load absorption, which may prevent the hand assembly **24** from damaging objects (not shown) by closing around them too quickly and forcefully.

Referring to FIG. **32**, the hand assembly **24** includes an MRP drive pulley **250** driven by the MRP drive **236** (not shown). The MRP drive pulley **250** is connected through an

14

MRP tension belt **252** to the MRP pulley **254**, enabling movement of the MRP structure **224**. The MRP drive pulley **250** is stage driven and transfers the load to the MRP tension belt **252**, which in turn rotates the linked MRP structure **224** via the MRP pulley **254**. As the MRP tension belt **252** transfers torque, one side of the MRP tension belt **252** tightens as the other side loosens. An MRP tensioner **256** located at one side of the MRP tension belt **252** displaces in relation to the change in load to maintain the tension of the MRP tension belt **252**. This also provides the MRP structure **224** with compliance to aid in gripping and with load absorption, which may prevent the hand assembly **24** from damaging objects (not shown) by closing around the objects (not shown) too quickly and forcefully.

Referring to FIG. **38**, in another embodiment, the MRP finger structures **224** are driven through an MRP sun shaft **370**, a set of MRP planets **372**, an MRP planet carrier **374**, an MRP ring gear **376**, and an MRP drive gear **378**. The MRP drive **380** drives the MRP ring gear **376**, turning the MRP planets **372**, the turning of which causes the MRP planet carrier **374** to rotate. The MRP drive gear **378** is driven by the external teeth of the MRP planet carrier **374**, causing the MRP structures **224** to move. Any torque transmitted by the MRP planet carrier **374** will react against the MRP sun shaft **370** causing it to rotationally displace the MRP spring **382** through the MRP spring mount **384**. This rotational displacement can be used to store elastic energy.

Referring to FIG. **33** the MRP differential drive **236** includes a main MRP drive gear **258**. The MRP drive gear **258** drives a first MRP input axle **260**. The first MRP input axle **260** drives a first differential idler gear **259** which optionally drives a middle spur gear **262** or a differential interface gear **261**. The middle spur gear **262** drives a middle pivot axle **264**. The middle finger **226** is mounted on the middle pivot axle **264** and is thus actuated by the MRP differential drive **236**. The differential interface gear **261** drives a second MRP input axle **266**. The second MRP input axle **266** drives a second differential idler gear **263** which optionally drives a ring spur gear **268** or a pinky spur gear **272**. The ring spur gear **268** drives a ring pivot axle **270**. The ring finger **228** is mounted on the ring pivot axle **270** and is thus actuated by the MRP differential drive **236**. The pinky spur gear **272** drives a pinky pivot axle **274**. The pinky finger **230** is mounted on the pinky pivot axle **274** and is thus actuated by the MRP drive **236**. While the MRP drive **236** drives the middle finger **226**, the ring finger **228** and the pinky finger **230**, the gear configuration of the first input axle **260** and the second input axle **266** allows independent movement for the under-actuated finger gear system of the MRP structures **224**.

Referring to FIG. **41**, in another embodiment of the hand, the MRP differential drive **236** includes an MRP drive gear **378** which drives a double differential allowing the MRP fingers to conformably wrap around an object. The MRP drive gear **378** drives a first MRP input axle **400**. The first input axle **400** drives a first differential idler gear **402** which optionally drives a middle spur gear **404** or a differential interface gear **406**. The middle spur gear **404** drives a middle pivot axle **264**. The middle finger **226** is mounted on the middle pivot axle **264** and is thus actuated by the MRP drive **236**. The differential interface gear **406** drives a second MRP input axle **408**. The second MRP input axle **408** drives a second differential idler gear **410** which optionally drives a ring spur gear **412** or a pinky spur gear **414**. The ring spur gear **412** drives a ring pivot axle **270**. The ring finger **228** is mounted on the ring pivot axle **270** and is thus actuated by the MRP drive **236**. The pinky spur gear **414** drives a pinky pivot axle **274**. The pinky finger **230** is mounted on the pinky pivot

15

axle **274** and is thus actuated by the MRP drive **236**. While the MRP drive **236** drives the middle finger **226**, the ring finger **228** and the pinky finger **230**, the gear configuration of the first input axle **400** and the second input axle **408** allows independent movement for the under-actuated finger gear system of the MRP structures **224**.

Referring to FIG. **34** the thumb differential drives **232** control the movement of the thumb structure **220** and are driven by thumb actuators **276**. The thumb actuators **276** have nonbackdriving thumb clutches **278** to prevent output loads from reaching and backdriving the thumb actuators. One thumb actuator **276** drives a first thumb output drive **280** and a first thumb output gear **282**. The first thumb output gear **282** in turn drives a first thumb transfer gear **284**, which drives a fixed differential shaft **286**. The fixed differential shaft **286** drives one thumb differential bevel gear **287**. The second thumb actuator **276** drives a second thumb output drive **288** and a second thumb output gear **290**. The second thumb output gear **290** drives a second thumb transfer gear **292**, which drives a thumb differential bevel gear **294**. The two thumb differential bevel gears **287** and **294** operate the thumb structure **220** in its two degrees of motion.

The thumb structure **220**, the index finger structure **222**, and MRP structure **224** in one embodiment are covered in silicone, which provides additional friction and aids in gripping objects. In some embodiments, the entire hand assembly **24** may also be covered in silicone to provide additional grip for holding objects. In other embodiments, the silicone material may be replaced by other compliant materials.

The hand assembly **24** is advantageous because the thumb structure **220**, index finger structure **222** and MRP structure **224** provide various degrees of freedom that allow the formation of various grasps or grips. Additionally, the different drives for each of the thumb structure **220**, index finger structure **222** and MRP structure **224** provide various beneficial characteristics to the hand assembly **24**. For instance, the thumb structure **220** moves relatively slow, but with greater force than the index finger structure **222** and MRP structure **224**. The index finger structure **222** moves quickly, but with less force and is non-backdrivable. This combination of thumb structure movement and index finger structure movement allow the quick formation of strong hand grips. Additionally, the combination allows for a smaller index finger actuator, which reduces size and weight of the hand assembly **24**. Additionally, the index finger structure **222** and MRP structure **224** move similar to human fingers, which makes them look more natural and makes them more intuitive for the user to control. The MRP structure **224** provides only bulk control for gripping objects, without providing for individual finger manipulation, since fine control is not necessary for the MRP structure **224**. Additionally, the MRP structure **224** advantageously moves each finger of the MRP structure **224** with a single actuator, eliminating excessive bulk in the hand assembly **24**. Like the index finger structure, the MRP structure **224** moves quickly with low force but is also non-backdrivable. Additionally, the fingers of the MRP structure **224** are highly flexible, allowing them to grip objects of varying size and shape. The MRP structure **224** functionality allows the user to grasp an object with the MRP structure **224** and thumb structure **220**, while allowing the user to move the index finger structure **222** separately, for example, to activate a button on the object.

The various parts of the prosthetic arm apparatus **10** are, in some embodiments, constructed from plastic or magnesium. However, where more strength is desired, the parts may be made of aluminum, titanium or steel. In other embodiments, the various parts of the prosthetic arm may be constructed of

16

other metals or plastics, depending on the desired characteristics, including strength, weight, compliance or other similar performance characteristics of the various parts.

Referring to FIG. **35**, a tactile feedback sensor **296** may be positioned on the inner side of the thumb structure **220**. The tactile feedback sensor **296** may be a pressure sensor, force sensor, a displacement sensor, or other similar sensor capable of providing the user with feedback. Referring to FIG. **36**, the tactile feedback sensor **296** is operatively connected to a feedback actuator **298**. The tactile feedback sensor **296** may be connected to the feedback actuator **298** by either wires or wirelessly. In operation, as the user grips an object with the hand assembly **24**, feedback sensor **296** reads the displacement of or the force exerted on the thumb structure **220**. That reading is then sent to the feedback actuator **298**, which gives the user tactile feedback that indicates the strength of the grip. Feedback actuator **298** may be placed on the chest of the user, located on a prosthetic support apparatus **299** in an area of tactile communication with the user, or in any other location capable of receiving tactile feedback, such as on a user's residuum **300**. Referring to FIG. **37**, the feedback actuator **298** may be located on a foot controller **302** that is used to control hand assembly **24**.

Feedback actuator **298** may be a vibration motor, such as any vibration motor known in the art, placed against the skin of the user. As the user grips an object, feedback actuator **298** begins vibrating, notifying the user how strong the object is being gripped. As the force on or displacement of the tactile feedback sensor **296** changes, frequency and/or amplitude of vibration may also change, notifying the amputee of a changing grip. For example, if a vibrating actuator **298** is placed at the chest of the user as in FIG. **36**, the user will feel the vibration at his chest.

The feedback actuator **298** may also be placed wherever the controller for the hand assembly **24** is located. For example, if a foot controller **302** controls the hand assembly **24**, the feedback actuator **298** may be incorporated into the foot controller **302**. The user will then receive tactile feedback of the strength of the prosthetic grip at the same location where the controller is located.

The actuator **298** may also be a pressure actuator that applies pressure against the user's skin. For example, the actuator **298** may have a rod that increases pressure against the amputee's skin as the hand assembly **24** increases its grip on an object.

Although described with a single tactile feedback sensor **296**, additional tactile feedback sensors may be placed at other locations on the hand assembly **24**. For example, additional tactile feedback sensors **296** may be placed on the index finger structure **222**, the MRP structures **224**, on the palm of the hand assembly **24**, or on any combination of these positions or any other location. Each tactile feedback sensor **296** would then be operatively connected to an associated feedback actuator **298**. Multiple tactile feedback sensors **296** and actuators **298** would provide more sophisticated tactile feedback of the strength of the grip, improving the control of the hand assembly **24**.

In some embodiments, the tactile feedback sensor **296** may indicate a change in pressure or force, rather than an absolute pressure or force. For example, if the force detected by the tactile feedback sensor **296** is constant, the feedback actuator **298** does not actuate, but if that pressure or force increases or decreases, the actuator **298** would actuate to indicate the change in pressure or force. Additionally, although described in terms of grip strength, the tactile feedback sensors **296** and actuators **298** may provide a variety of other feedback in

17

including temperature, an operational mode of the prosthetic arm 10, surface finish of a object, slip of an object within the hand assembly 24 or the like.

In operation, the prosthetic arm apparatus is able to move substantially similar to a human arm. Referring to FIGS. 29 and 30, starting with the hand assembly 24, the thumb structure 220, index finger structure 222, and MRP structure 224 are each driven independent of the others, and therefore, each may be actuated without actuating the other two structures. Both of the thumb actuators 276 control motion of the thumb structure 220 in a direction toward or away from the center of the palm of the hand assembly 24, as shown in FIG. 34, through the miter gear 294 and in a direction toward or away from the side of the palm of the hand assembly 24, as shown in FIG. 34, through the lateral rotation shaft, depending upon the direction and speed of rotation of each thumb actuator 276. Thus, the thumb actuators 276, shown in FIG. 34, provide the thumb structure 220 with two degrees of freedom in the thumb structure's movement. Coupling the two thumb actuators 276 through the differential described above to provide the two degrees of freedom to the thumb structure 220 is advantageous over providing a single degree of freedom with each actuator 276 because the torque of each actuator 276 through the differential is used for movement in both degrees of freedom, which effectively doubles the torque of the thumb in each direction as compared to single actuators. The index finger structure 222, driven by a single index differential drive 234, may be actuated with two degrees of freedom. Specifically, the index finger structure 222 may be actuated toward or away from the palm of the hand assembly 24, wherein the movement path is similar to that of a human index finger while making or releasing a fist. The middle finger 226, ring finger 228, and pinky finger 230 of the MRP structure 224 are actuated by the MRP differential drive 236. Additionally, the middle finger 226, ring finger 228, and pinky finger 230 are actuated toward or away from the palm of the hand assembly 24, similar to the index finger structure 222. However, the middle finger 226, ring finger 228, and pinky finger 230 are each geared separately, such that the rate of movement of each is different, simulating human finger movement and making the hand assembly 24 more similar to a human hand than conventional prior art prosthetic devices.

Referring to FIG. 1, the hand assembly 24 is mounted on the wrist flexion assembly 22 via the hand interface 198, as shown in FIG. 25. Referring to FIG. 25, as the output arm 196 of the wrist flexion assembly 22 is actuated, the hand assembly 24 is also caused to move. The output arm 196 of the wrist flexion assembly 22 may be actuated pivotally about wrist flexion pivot axle 208, as shown in FIG. 27, moving the hand interface 198 to the left or right, and thus pivoting the hand assembly 24 in relation to the input support structure 192.

Referring back to FIG. 1, the wrist flexion assembly 22 is attached to the wrist rotator 20 via wrist flexion assembly interface 172, shown in FIG. 23. Referring to FIGS. 23 and 24, when actuated, the wrist flexion assembly interface 172 is rotated about wrist shaft 188 in relation to 10 the wrist outer bearing carrier 164. Therefore, the wrist flexion assembly 22, and attached hand assembly 24 are also caused to rotate in reference to the wrist outer bearing carrier 164 by actuation of the wrist rotator 20. Therefore, the wrist rotator 20 allows the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 to move in rotation similar to a human wrist joint.

Referring back to FIG. 1, the wrist rotator 20 is attached to the elbow flexion assembly 18 via the wrist interface 130, shown in FIG. 18. Referring to FIG. 20, when the elbow flexion assembly 18 is actuated, the radial mount 122 is rotated about the axis of motor rotor 134. The wrist rotator 20,

18

wrist flexion assembly 22, and hand assembly 24 are thus also caused to rotate about the axis of motor rotor 134 because they are attached at the wrist interface to the radial mount 122. Therefore, the elbow flexion joint 18 allows the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 to move similar to flexion extension of a human elbow joint.

Referring back to FIG. 1, the elbow flexion assembly 18 is attached to the humeral rotator 16 via the humeral mount 96, shown in FIG. 16. Referring to FIG. 16, actuation of the humeral rotator 16 causes the humeral mount 96 to rotate in relation to the outer bearing carrier 90 of the humeral rotator 16. Since the elbow flexion assembly 18, wrist rotator 20, wrist flexion assembly 22, and hand assembly 24 are attached to the humeral mount 96, they are also caused to rotate in relation to the outer bearing carrier 90. This allows the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 to rotate to perform an arm wrestling motion.

Referring back to FIG. 1, the humeral rotator 16 is attached to the shoulder flexion assembly 14 through the humeral interface 46, shown in FIG. 9. Referring to FIG. 9, actuation of the shoulder flexion assembly 14 causes the main shoulder housing 42 to pivot about the center of the abductor interface 44. Since the humeral rotator 16, elbow flexion assembly 18, wrist rotator 20, wrist flexion assembly 22, and hand assembly 24 are attached to the main housing 42, they are also caused to rotate in relation to the abductor interface 44. Therefore, the shoulder flexion assembly 14 allows the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 to move along the torso simulating running motion.

Referring to FIG. 1, the shoulder flexion joint 14 is attached to the shoulder abductor 12 through the shoulder flexion assembly mount 30, shown in FIG. 5. Referring to FIG. 5, the shoulder abductor 12 is attached to a harness that is worn by the user via harness mount 26. When the shoulder abductor 12 is actuated in a positive direction, the shoulder flexion assembly mount 30 pivots away from the harness mount 26, and the user. Similarly, by actuating the shoulder abductor in a negative direction, the shoulder flexion assembly mount 30 is pivoted toward the harness mount 26 and the user. Since the shoulder flexion assembly 14, humeral rotator 16, elbow flexion assembly 18, wrist rotator 20, wrist flexion assembly 22, and hand assembly 24 are attached to shoulder abductor 12 at the flexion assembly mount 30, they are also caused to pivot with the shoulder flexion assembly mount 30.

One characteristic of the prosthetic arm apparatus described herein is that it provides the user with substantially the same movement capabilities and degrees of freedom of a human arm, including two degrees of freedom in shoulder functionality. Additionally, the modularity of each segment of the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 provides a significant advantage over conventional prosthetic devices. In particular, since each segment of the plurality of segments operates independently of each other segment of the plurality of segments, fewer segments may be used for less severe amputees. For example, a transhumeral amputee may have full shoulder functionality in the residuum, in which case the shoulder abductor 12 and shoulder flexion assembly 14 segments would be omitted from the prosthetic arm apparatus 10. The resulting prosthetic arm apparatus 10 would include the humeral rotator 16, the elbow flexion assembly 18, the wrist rotator 20, the wrist flexion assembly 22, and the hand assembly 24, wherein the humeral rotator 16 would be attached to the prosthetic harness. In some cases, the residuum of the transhumeral amputee may even have humeral rotation, in which case the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 may be further simplified to include only the elbow flexion assembly 18, the wrist rotator 20, the wrist flexion assembly 22 and the hand

19

assembly 24, with the elbow flexion assembly 22 being attached to the prosthetic support apparatus. Similarly, for a transradial amputee, the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 may include only the wrist rotator 20, wrist flexion assembly 22 and the hand assembly 24, with the wrist rotator 20 being attached to the prosthetic support apparatus. Additionally, in some embodiments, the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 may be further simplified to include only the wrist flexion assembly 22 and the hand assembly 24 when the transradial amputee has wrist rotation in their residuum. In these embodiments, the wrist flexion assembly 22 may be attached to the prosthetic support apparatus. Thus, the modularity of each segment of the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 advantageously allows for customization of different prosthetic arm configurations for various users based on the differing degrees of amputation of each user.

A further advantage of the present invention is the use of non-backdriving clutches to preclude movement of the segments due to forces exerted on the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 when not in motion. These non-backdriving clutches may be particularly beneficial when the segments of the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 have different strength capacities so that the clutches for specific segments of the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 may lock those segments while other stronger segments are actuated to lift heavy objects. For instance, the non-backdriving clutch in the shoulder flexion assembly 14 may be used to lock out shoulder movement while the elbow flexion assembly 18 is actuated to lift a heavy object. The non-backdriving clutches may also advantageously conserve power since the non-backdriving clutches prevent motion without using power. Thus, the power to specific segments of the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 may be shut off, on a segment-by-segment basis, when not in use, since the non-backdriving clutches in those segments are locking out motion. Additionally, the non-backdriving clutches may also save power by allowing power to the entire prosthetic arm apparatus 10 to be turned off whenever the arm is not in motion while maintaining the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 in a locked position.

An additional characteristic of the apparatus is that the hand assembly includes independently moving fingers and is capable of completing fine tasks such as pinching, grasping non-uniform objects, and lifting small objects off flat surfaces. Also, the tactile feedback sensor provides the user with feedback, during use of the prosthetic arm apparatus, such as the force of a grip. The apparatus also includes a cosmesis covering on the finger structures, which will be discussed in greater detail below, providing, amongst other things, grip for grasping objects. The rigid fingernail 304, shown in FIG. 34, which may be included on any of the finger structures, provides a backstop for the finger cover to enhance gripping capability. The rigid fingernail 304 also enhances gripping capability by anchoring the finger cover to the finger and allows the user to lift small objects from a surface with the prosthetic arm apparatus 10.

Referring to FIG. 42, wherein like numerals represent like elements, in some embodiments, the shoulder abductor 12 and the shoulder flexion assembly 14 shown in FIG. 2, may be integrated as a single shoulder unit 1416, providing both degrees of freedom provided by the shoulder abductor 12 and shoulder flexion assembly 14 of FIG. 2. The single shoulder unit 1416 includes a shoulder housing 1418 pivotally connected to the harness mount 1026, which allows the shoulder unit 1416 to be connected to a prosthetic harness (not shown) as discussed above. In some embodiments, the shoulder housing 1418 has a smooth outer surface 1419 to shape the shoulder unit 1416 to be similar to a human arm. The shoulder

20

housing 1418 is divided into a flexor portion 1420 and an abductor portion 1422, which are movable relative to one another. The flexor portion 1420 of the shoulder housing 1418 includes the humeral interface 1046 for connecting the humeral rotator 16, shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, to the shoulder unit 1416. The abductor portion 1422 of the shoulder housing 1418 is pivotally connected to the harness mount 1026, which allows the shoulder unit 1416 to interface with a prosthetic harness (not shown) as discussed above.

Referring to FIGS. 43 and 44, within the housing 1418 is a shoulder flexion drive 1424 for causing flexion motion of the flexor portion 1420 about a shoulder flexion axis 1426 and an abduction drive 1428 for causing abduction motion of the shoulder housing 1418 about an abduction axis 1430. Additionally, the housing also defines an electronics compartment 1432 for housing control systems and circuits for the integrated shoulder unit 1416.

The shoulder flexion drive 1424, in one embodiment, includes a shoulder flexion motor 1434 having motor shaft 1058 for driving the shoulder flexion motor pulley 1056. The shoulder flexion motor pulley 1056 drives the shoulder flexion belt 1060, which, in turn, drives the shoulder flexion belt-driven pulley 1062. The shoulder flexion belt-driven pulley 1062 drives the wave generator 1064 of a shoulder flexion harmonic drive gearing system 1436, the output of which is fixedly interfaced with the abductor portion 1422. Thus, as power is transmitted through the shoulder flexion drive 1424 from the shoulder flexion motor 1434 to the output of the harmonic drive gearing system 1436, the flexor portion 1420 rotates relative to the abductor portion 1422 about the shoulder flexion axis 1426. In some embodiments, the motor shaft 1058 and the wave generator 1064 are both hollow shafts to allow passage of an abductor motor shaft 1438 and an abductor screw shaft 1440, respectively, as will be discussed in greater detail below.

In the exemplary embodiment, the abduction drive 1428 includes the abductor motor 1036 for driving the abductor motor shaft 1438. The abductor motor shaft 1438 is configured to drive the abductor belt 1038 about its distal end. The abductor belt 1038, in turn, drives the abductor screw shaft 1440, which has an abductor nut 1442 threadedly coupled thereto. The abductor nut 1442 is connected to the harness mount 1026 through a linkage 1444, which is, in some embodiments, a four bar linkage. As power is transmitted through the abduction drive 1426 from the abductor motor 1036 to the abductor screw shaft 1440, the screw shaft 1440 rotates. The rotation of the screw shaft 1440 causes the abductor nut 1442 to displace axially along the screw shaft 1440, which causes pivotal motion of the shoulder housing 1418 through the linkage 1444 about the abduction axis 1430.

Referring to FIG. 42, the relative movement between the flexor portion 1420 and the abductor portion 1422 provides the shoulder unit 1416 with a first degree of freedom similar to that of the shoulder flexion joint 14 of FIG. 2. The abductor portion 1422 of the shoulder housing 1418 is pivotally connected to the harness mount 1026 at the abductor joint 1034, providing the shoulder unit with the second degree of freedom by allowing the shoulder housing 1418 to pivot relative to the harness mount 1026 in a similar manner to that discussed above in connection with the shoulder abductor 12 of FIG. 2. Referring to FIGS. 43 and 44, the integrated shoulder unit 1416 locates the shoulder flexion axis 1426 and the abduction axis 1430 relatively close to one another as compared to separate shoulder flexion and shoulder abduction assemblies, which provides for more intuitive motion that more closely simulates the movement of a human shoulder.

21

The shoulder flexion drive **1424** and the abduction drive **1428** discussed above include coaxial motors and coaxial shafts to minimize the size of the single shoulder unit **1416** and to reduce the weight thereof. Thus, these exemplary single shoulder unit **1416** is beneficial because its weight relative to the separate shoulder abductor **12** and shoulder flexion assembly **14**, shown in FIG. 2. Additionally, the single shoulder unit **1416** provides more narrow housing **1418**, which allows a more natural anatomical position of the shoulder for a broader range of users and may reduce bumping with the user's residuum during use. This embodiment has an additional benefit of decreasing the weight of the prosthetic. Additionally, as seen in FIGS. 43 and 44, both the abduction motor **1036** and the shoulder flexion motor **1434** may be located in the vicinity of the electronics compartment **1432**, so the electronics for both the shoulder flexion drive **1424** and the abduction drive **1428** may be located in the same place, which eliminates any need to route wiring through the shoulder unit **1416**. This is advantageous since running wires across joints is a failure mode in which the wires may crimp and break when moved. Thus, the shoulder unit **1416** eliminates this failure mode by eliminating wires running across the joints that could cause failure of the prosthetic arm **1010**.

Although the shoulder flexion drive **1424** and the abduction drive **1428** have been shown in an exemplary configuration, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that other drive configurations may also be used to drive the single shoulder unit **1416** about the shoulder flexion axis **1426** and the abduction axis **1430**. For instance, referring to FIG. 45, the shoulder flexion motor **2434** and the abduction motor **2036** of the single shoulder unit **2416** do not need to be coaxial and they may still each be located within the housing **2418** in the vicinity of the electronics compartment **2432**. Additionally, rather than driving the linkage **1444**, shown in FIG. 43, the worm drive **2041** may instead threadably engage an abduction gear **2446** coupled to the harness mount **2026** to generate pivotal movement about the abduction axis **2430**.

Additionally, referring now to FIG. 46, in various embodiments, the integrated shoulder unit **3416** may shift the abduction output to change the location of the harness mount (not shown) to improve mounting location and/or to allow for ninety degrees (90°) of abduction about the abduction axis **3430** without bumping with the residuum (not shown). For example, the location of the abduction output may be changed by extending the abduction drive **3428** with one or more additional shafts, gears, and/or belts.

Referring to FIG. 47, the flexion assembly mount **4030** may also be shifted away from the harness mount **4026** in the non-integrated shoulder abductor **4012**. Referring to FIG. 48, the flexion assembly mount **4030** may also include an accommodating slot **4031** adapted to accommodate portions of the abductor joint **4034**, shown in FIG. 47. Referring back to FIG. 47, the shifted flexion assembly mount **4030** allows the user to orient the shoulder abductor **4012** on the prosthetic support apparatus (not shown) in different orientations while still allowing a range of motion of the shoulder abductor **4012** of at least approximately ninety degrees (90°). This may be particularly advantageous since the mounting orientation of the shoulder abductor **4012** may vary from user to user, which may limit the range of abduction motion with the non-shifted flexion assembly mount **30**, shown in FIG. 6. Additionally, in some embodiments, the shifted flexion assembly mount **4030** may house a flex sensor plunger for detecting flexion motion of the shoulder flexion assembly **4014**.

Referring now to FIG. 49, another embodiment of the wrist rotator **1020** is shown for providing improved electronic wiring capability to the prosthetic device. Although shown as the

22

wrist rotator **1020**, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that a similar configuration may be used for other rotating joints, such as the humeral rotator **16**, shown in FIG. 1. In this embodiment of the wrist rotator **1020**, the wrist rotator motor **1448**, including the wrist rotator motor armature **1174** and a driven portion **1450** of the wrist rotator motor rotor **1176** having wrist rotator magnets **1178** disposed thereon, and the wrist harmonic drive gearing system **1452**, including the wrist rotator harmonic drive gearing system wave generator **1180**, the wrist rotator harmonic drive gearing system flexspline **1182** and the wrist rotator harmonic drive gearing system circular spline **1184**, are separated into coaxial side-by-side units with the wrist rotator motor **1448** being proximate to the elbow interface **1170** and the harmonic drive gearing system **1452** being proximate to the wrist flexion assembly interface **1172**. By arranging the wrist rotator motor **1448** and the wrist harmonic drive gearing system **1452** in the side-by-side configuration, the electronics channel **1190** passing through the center of the wrist rotator rotor **1176** may be formed large enough to allow electronic wiring to be run internally through the center of the wrist rotator **1020**. Referring to FIGS. 50 and 51, the wiring through the prosthetic arm **10**, shown in FIG. 1, in some embodiments, may run through one or more extension springs **1454**, in particular around the flexion joints, such as the elbow flexion assembly **18** and the wrist flexion assembly **22**, shown in FIG. 1, where internal wiring is difficult or impractical.

Routing the wiring through the center of the wrist rotator **1020** eliminates the need for external wiring, thereby minimizing any flexing movement experienced by the wiring, which can cause wire pinching, abrasions and failure. The internal wiring also eliminates the possibility that external wiring will become caught on something and break. Routing the wiring through the one or more extension springs **1454** where internal wiring is not practical, possible or desired allows for controlled loading of the external wiring and protects the wiring from pinching to reduce wire failure.

Referring to FIG. 52, in another embodiment of the wrist flexion assembly **1022**, the output arm **1196** is able to move in flexion relative to the input support structure **1194** about a flexion axis **1456** and to move in ulnar-radial deviation relative to the input support structure **1194** about a deviation axis **1458** that is perpendicular to the flexion axis **1456**. Thus, when the hand assembly **24**, shown in FIG. 1, is attached to the output arm **1196** of the wrist flexion assembly **1022**, the hand assembly **24**, shown in FIG. 1, is able to move in both flexion and ulnar-radial deviation.

Referring to FIG. 53, the wrist flexion assembly **1022** includes two wrist motors **1202**, for controlling the flexion and ulnar-radial deviation of the output arm **1196**, shown in FIG. 52. Each wrist motor **1202** drives an input geartrain **1460**, which, in turn, drives a wrist worm gear **1462**. Each worm gear **1462** drives an input gear **1464** of a wrist differential **1466**. The wrist differential **1466** includes a first bevel gear **1468** and a second bevel gear **1470** that are rotatable about the flexion axis **1456**. The first bevel gear **1468** and the second bevel gear **1470** may be driven by one of the input gears **1464**. The wrist differential **1466** also includes a differential body **1472** rotatably attached about the flexion axis **1456** between the first and second bevel gears **1468** and **1470**. An ulnar-radial axle **1474** extends from one side of the differential body **1472** along the ulnar-radial axis **1458** and a third bevel gear **1476** extends from the differential body **1472** on the opposite side thereof. The third bevel gear **1476** is rotatable about the ulnar-radial axis **1458** and meshes with and is driven by the first bevel gear **1468** and the second bevel gear **1470**.

## 23

In operation, the user is able to actuate wrist flexion, wrist ulnar-radial deviation and combinations thereof by actuating the motors **1202** in various ways. For example, referring to FIG. **54**, if the motors **1202** are driven at the same speed in opposite directions, i.e. one is driven clockwise and the other counterclockwise, the output arm **1196**, shown in FIG. **52** will move in flexion in one direction about the flexion axis **1456**. If the direction of each motor is reversed, i.e. from spinning clockwise to counterclockwise and vice versa, the output arm **1196**, shown in FIG. **52**, will flex in the opposite direction. Similarly, referring to FIG. **55**, if the motors **1202** are driven at the same speed in the same direction, i.e. both are driven clockwise, the output arm **1196**, shown in FIG. **52**, will move in ulnar-radial deviation in one direction about the deviation axis **1458**. If the direction of each motor is reversed, i.e. from spinning clockwise to counterclockwise, the output arm **1196**, shown in FIG. **52**, will move in ulnar-radial deviation in the opposite direction about the deviation axis **1458**. In addition to varying the direction of rotation of the motors **1202**, varying the speed of one motor **1202** relative to the other will result in a combination of flexion and ulnar-radial deviation. Accordingly, in this embodiment, wrist flexion and ulnar-radial deviation may both be controlled simply by varying the direction and speed of the motors **1202**.

Although the wrist flexion assembly **1022** is described as having a differential drive **1466** for imparting wrist flexion and wrist ulnar-radial deviation movement to the output arm **1196**, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that other drives may be used to achieve similar capabilities. For instance, referring to FIG. **56**, the wrist flexion assembly **2022** may include a separate wrist flexion geartrain **2478** for imparting flexion motion to the output arm **2196** about the flexion axis **2456** and a separate ulnar-radial geartrain **2480** for imparting ulnar-radial deviation to the output arm **2196** about the deviation axis **2458**.

Referring to FIG. **76**, in another embodiment of the present invention, a wrist flexion assembly **4022** is provided for imparting a combination of both flexion about the flexion axis **4456** and ulnar-radial deviation about the deviation axis **4458** to the hand assembly **4024** in a single movement. The wrist flexion assembly **4022** includes the input support structure **4194** adapted to be connected to the wrist rotator **20**, shown in FIG. **1**, in the same manner as discussed above. The wrist support structure **4194** includes a hand interface **4626** proximate to the hand assembly **4024** for attaching the hand assembly **4024** to the wrist support structure **4194**. The wrist support structure **4194** houses a wrist motor **202**, shown in FIG. **26**, which drives the wrist pivot axle **4208** in rotary motion about the wrist flexion axis **4456** through an appropriate gear train (not shown). The wrist pivot axle includes flattened end portions **4628** at each end thereof, extending outwardly from the wrist support structure **4194** and into the hand interface **4626**. Each flattened end portion **4628** has two substantially parallel planar surface **4630** extending parallel to the wrist flexion axis **4456**. The hand interface **4626** includes a first cam bearing **4632** fixedly secured to the wrist support structure **4194** about the flattened end portion **4628** of the wrist pivot axle **4208** proximate to the thumb structure **4220** of the hand assembly **4024**. The hand interface also includes a second cam bearing **4634** fixedly secured to the wrist support structure **4194** about the flattened end portion **4628** of the wrist pivot axle **4208** proximate to the pinky finger **4230** of the hand assembly **4024**. Referring to FIG. **77**, the first cam bearing **4632** includes a first cam profile **4636** formed therein. Referring to FIG. **78**, the second cam bearing **4634** includes a second cam profile **4638** formed therein. Referring back to FIG. **76**, the hand interface **4626** also includes first and second

## 24

slider blocks **4640** coupling the hand assembly **4024** to the wrist flexion assembly **4022**. The first and second slider blocks **4640** each have a proximate end **4642** at the hand interface **4626** and a distal end **4644** near the hand assembly **4024**. Each of the first and second slider blocks **4640** has a slot **4646** formed therein that slidably receives one of the flattened end portions **4628** of the wrist pivot axle **4208**. The first and second slider blocks **4640** include cam followers **4648** at their proximate ends **4642** that are received within the first cam profile **4636** of the first cam bearing **4632** and the second cam profile **4638**, shown in FIG. **78**, of the second cam bearing **4634**. The first and second slider blocks **4640** are pivotally coupled to the hand assembly **4024** at their distal ends **4644** about pivot axes **4650**.

In this embodiment, the hand assembly **4024** may be angled away from the flexion axis **4456** about a wrist rotation axis **4652** to reduce the motion that the first cam profile **4636** and the second cam profile **4638** need to produce to achieve the desired combined flexion and ulnar-radial deviation movement of the hand assembly **4024**. In some embodiments, the hand assembly **4024** is angled approximately thirty degrees clockwise (30° clockwise) assuming left hand user perspective from the flexion axis **4456**.

Referring to FIGS. **79A-79C**, in operation, the wrist motor **202**, shown in FIG. **26**, drives the wrist pivot axle **4208** in rotation movement about the flexion axis **4456**, which provides the hand assembly **4024** with flexion movement. Additionally, the sliding engagement between the flattened end portions **4628** of the wrist pivot axle **4208** and the first and second slider blocks **4640** causes the first and second slider blocks **4640** to pivot about the flexion axis **4456** as the wrist pivot axle **4208** rotates. As the first and second slider blocks **4640** pivot, the cam followers **4648**, shown in FIG. **76**, follow the first cam profile **4636**, shown in FIG. **77**, and the second cam profile **4638**, shown in FIG. **78**, which causes the first and second slider blocks **4640** to slide relative to the wrist pivot axle **4208**. This sliding motion of each of the first and second slider blocks **4640** causes the hand assembly **4024** to pivot about the pivot axes **4650**, shown in FIG. **76**, which results in the ulnar-radial deviation movement of the hand assembly **4024**. Thus, as the wrist motor drives the wrist pivot axle **4208**, the hand assembly **4024** moves from a first position **4654**, shown in FIG. **79A**, in which the hand is fully flexed and deviated in the ulnar direction, to a second position **4656**, shown in FIG. **79B**, which is a neutral position with respect to flexion movement but includes some degree of ulnar deviation. Then, the hand assembly **4024** continues to move until it reaches a third position **4658**, shown in FIG. **79C**, in which the hand assembly **4024** is fully extended about the flexion axis **4456** and is also fully deviated in the radial direction.

Referring to FIG. **80**, the first cam profile **4636**, shown in FIG. **77**, and the second cam profile **4638**, shown in FIG. **78**, provide for movement of the hand assembly **4024**, shown in FIG. **76**, along a constrained flexion-deviation movement path **4660** that includes components of both flexion motion and ulnar-radial deviation motion. The constrained flexion-deviation movement path **4660** is advantageous because the user only needs to think about controlling a single degree of freedom, unlike the embodiments discussed above that provide independent wrist flexion movement and ulnar-deviation movement. Additionally, the constrained flexion-deviation movement path **4660** is beneficial because it provides for full flexion movement and also provides for nearly full ulnar deviation without requiring full wrist flexion. Thus, functionality is particularly beneficial when users use the prosthetic arm apparatus **10**, shown in FIG. **1**, to pick up an object (not shown) from overhead. The constrained flexion-deviation

25

movement path 4660 also advantageously allows for some degree of flexion movement without significant ulnar deviation, which allows the user to move an object, such as a spoon, in flexion motion without spilling its contents. This range of flexion movement with minimal ulnar deviation provided by the constrained flexion-deviation movement path 4660 may also be beneficial to compensate for offset in situations where the prosthetic arm apparatus 10, shown in FIG. 1, is mounted at an offset, for example, to avoid the user's residuum. Additionally, since the hand assembly 4024, shown in FIG. 76, is angled in the neutral second position 4656, shown in FIG. 79B, pinching of the thumb structure 4220, shown in FIG. 76, and index finger structure 4222, shown in FIG. 76, are more in line with the wrist rotation axis 4652, which makes various tasks easier for the user, such as turning a door knob, turning a key or the like. Thus, the constrained flexion-deviation movement path 4660 provided by the wrist flexion assembly 4022, shown in FIG. 76, provides a variety of advantages over conventional prosthetic devices.

Although described in terms of constrained flexion-deviation movement path 4660, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that the first cam profile 4636, shown in FIG. 77, and the second cam profile, shown in FIG. 78, may be formed in various configurations to achieve a variety of different constrained movement paths. Additionally, although the constrained flexion-deviation movement path 4660 has been described in connection with the wrist flexion assembly 4022, the constrained flexion-deviation movement path 4660 may also be commanded using the flexion assembly 1022, shown in FIG. 52, by programming the prosthetic controller to actuate the motors 1202, shown in FIG. 53, to move the prosthetic hand assembly 24 along the same constrained flexion-deviation path 4660.

Referring to FIG. 57, in various embodiments, the non-backdriving clutch 1070 may replace spacers of the input cage 1074 with springs 1482 between the rollers 1072. The springs 1482 push the rollers 1072 apart and into contact with both the race 1078 and the output polygon 1484, which may be an output hex 1076. Thus, when a backdriving torque (not shown) is applied to the output hex 1076 to friction lock the rollers 1072 between the output hex 1076 and the bearing race 1078, the rollers 1072 are already contacting both the race 1078 and the output hex 1076, thereby eliminating backlash, i.e. a slight rotation of the output polygon 1076, when the backdriving torque (not shown) is applied. Thus, the non-backdrivable clutch 1070 imparts a frictional lock, which additional backdriving torque (not shown) through the output hex 1076 will not overcome. Additionally, as discussed above in connection with FIG. 12, in various embodiments, the non-backdriving clutch 1070 may unlock itself through the application of an input load through the input cage 1074. Variations of this embodiment may include, but are not limited to, additional or fewer springs 1482, additional or fewer rollers 1072 or a differently shaped race 1078. For example, in various embodiments, the relative position of the output hex 1076 and the race 1078 may be shifted, i.e., rather than the hollow, circular race 1078 with the output polygon 1484 inside, in various embodiments, the clutch may include an outer hollow output polygon surrounding a circular race. Additionally, although shown as a coil spring, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that the springs 1482 may be formed in various configurations and/or from a variety of metal or elastomeric materials to provide the force for separating the rollers 1072.

Referring to FIG. 58, an embodiment for output load sensing through a drive 1486 having a worm gear 1488, such as the shoulder abduction drive 3428 of FIG. 46, is shown. Includ-

26

ing one or more worm gears 1488 in the drive 1486 is beneficial because the worm gear 1488 may itself prevent back-driving. The worm gear 1488 may be arranged on a splined shaft 1490 between a first spring 1492 and a second spring 1494. The splined shaft includes a plurality of splines 1496 arranged axially around the surface of the splined shaft 1490 and a shaft input 1498 portion, which may be rotated directly by a motor (not shown) or through a gear train or the like. The worm gear 1494 is tubular and has an interior surface 1500 designed to slidably interface with the splines 1496 of the splined shaft 1490 such that the worm gear 1488 may slide axially along the surface of the splined shaft 1490. The worm gear 1488 meshes with an output gear 1502 such that when the splined shaft 1490 is caused to rotate through its shaft input portion 1498, the splined shaft 1490 rotatably drives the worm gear 1488 through the splines 1496 which, in turn, drives the output gear 1502. When a load (not shown) is applied to the drive through the output gear 1502, for example, if the user is lifting an object, the load will generate a torque T at the output gear 1502. Although the torque T will not cause the worm gear 1488 to rotate, the torque T may cause the worm gear 1488 to displace axially along the splined shaft 1490 compressing one of the first spring 1492 or the second spring 1494, depending upon the direction of displacement. Thus, by designing the drive system 1486 with the first spring 1492 and the second spring 1494 of known spring constants, the compliance, i.e. the displacement of the worm gear 1488, may be measured to estimate the output load (not shown). This drive system 1486 for output load sensing is particularly beneficial since the compliance is still present or active while the worm gear 1488 is not being rotated, but is instead acting as a non-backdriving element.

The prevention of backdriving with the various systems discussed above is beneficial because it allows the user to maintain a position of the prosthetic arm 10, shown in FIG. 1, while under a load (not shown). However, referring to FIGS. 59 and 60, in some embodiments, it may be desirable to provide the various arm segments with break-away mechanisms 2504 that will separate the drive output from the drive input to prevent damage to the drive system if the load becomes too large. The break-away mechanism 2504 may include an input shaft 2506, an output shaft 2508 and two break-away spacers 2510 that are held in contact with the input shaft 2506 and output shaft 2508 by a compression member 2512. The input shaft 2506 and the output shaft 2508 each include a shaft body 2514 and a torque transmission tab 2516 extending axially outward from the shaft body 2514 between the break-away spacers 2510. The compression element member 2512 surrounds the break-away spacers 2510 and sandwiches the torque transmission tabs 2516 therebetween. The compression member 2512 may be, for example, a snap ring, a round metal ring, an o-ring, multiple o-rings, a coil spring, or the like. The compression member 2512 applies a preset compressive force to the breakaway spacers 2510.

In operation, the input shaft 2506 of the break-away mechanism 2504 is rotated by a motor (not shown) or the like to generate a desired movement of the prosthetic arm 10, shown in FIG. 1. Thus, the torque transmission tab 2516 of the input shaft 2506 rotates and transmits the rotation through the break-away spacers 2510 to the torque transmission tab 2516 of the output shaft 2508 as long as the torque required to cause rotation of the torque transmission tab 2516 of the output shaft 2508 is not large enough to overcome the preset compressive force provided by the compression member 2512. If the torque is large enough to overcome the preset compressive force, the torque transmission tab 2516 will push the break-

27

away spacers 2510 apart and the torque transmission tab 2516 will rotate between the break-away spacers 2510 without transmitting torque therethrough. Thus, the break-away mechanism 2504 may prevent torque above a preset level from being transmitted through the drive system, where it can damage the drive system components or injure the user. Accordingly, the break-away mechanism 2504 may limit the amount of torque applied to sensitive parts of the various drive systems of the prosthetic arm 10, shown in FIG. 1, and may, therefore, impart a longer lifespan on the prosthetic arm.

Referring to FIG. 61A, another embodiment of a break-away mechanism 3504 includes an input ring 3518 and an output ring 3520 connected by a detent ring 3522. The break-away mechanism 3504 may be connected between two prosthetic arm segments, for example, the input ring 3518 may be connected to the shoulder unit 1416, shown in FIG. 42, and the output ring 3520 may be connected to the humeral rotator 16, shown in FIG. 1. Referring to FIGS. 62B and 63B, in some embodiments, the input ring 3518, output ring 3520 and the detent ring 3522 each includes an alignment marker 3524 on its outer surface 3526 to indicate proper positioning of the breakaway mechanism 3504.

Referring to FIG. 61B, the output ring 3520 includes a central hub 3528 having an outer surface 3529 with a plurality of spring fingers 3530 radiating therefrom. Each spring finger 3530 has a first detent 3532 and a second detent 3534 along its length and a pin 3536 at its distal end 3538. The input ring 3518 includes a plurality of detents 3540 around the circumference of its inner surface 3542, within which the pins 3536 of the spring fingers 3530 may engage, as will be discussed in greater detail below. The detent ring 3522 includes a plurality of detent pins 3544 located partway between the inner surface 3542 of the input ring 3518 and the outer surface 3529 of the output ring 3520. The detent pins 3544 engage the first detents 3532 of the spring fingers 3530 during normal operation of the breakaway mechanism 3504, i.e. when torque is being transmitted through the breakaway mechanism 3504.

However, referring to FIG. 62A, if an overtorque situation occurs, the pins 3536 at the distal ends 3538 of the spring fingers 3530 will pop out of the ring detents 3540 so that the torque will not be transmitted back to the input ring 3518. Additionally, referring to FIG. 62B, the overtorque situation will also cause the alignment markers 3524 to move out of alignment. The user may then realign the alignment markers 3524 to transmit torque through the breakaway mechanism 3504.

Referring to FIG. 63A, the user may also intentionally disengage the torque transmission by moving the alignment marker 3524 on the detent ring 3522 up to engage the break-away mechanism 3504 in freeswing. As seen in FIG. 63B, this configuration entirely disengages the spring fingers 3530 from the input ring 3518, thereby allowing the output ring 3520 to rotate freely without driving the upstream components through the input ring 3518. Thus, this embodiment of the breakaway mechanism 3504 is advantageous because it also allows for the user to engage freeswing of the prosthetic arm 10, shown in FIG. 1.

These break-away mechanisms discussed above are beneficial because they prevent damage to the prosthetic arm apparatus 10 and possible injury to the user due to high loading situations. Additionally, the break-away mechanisms are advantageous in that once the break-away mechanisms break under high loading, they may be reset by the user without the need to see a prosthetic technician.

As discussed above, various embodiments of the prosthetic arm 10, shown in FIG. 1, include feedback mechanisms for compliance and position sensing, such as potentiometer 48,

28

shown in FIG. 10. Referring now to FIG. 64, in some embodiments, the prosthetic arm 10, shown in FIG. 1, may include other feedback mechanisms, for example, a magnetic position sensor 1546. In these embodiments, at least one magnetic strip 1548 may be attached about the circumference of an inner surface 1550 of a rotatable drive component 1552. The magnetic strip 1548 includes a plurality of magnets 1554 of known length L1 arranged in series, each having a north pole N and a south pole S. Thus, the magnetic strip 1548 generates a magnetic field having a repeating pattern of alternating north poles N and south poles S. The magnetic position sensor 1546 is arranged to detect this magnetic field generated by the magnetic strip 1548. In operation, the rotatable drive component 1552 rotates, which causes the magnetic strip 1548 to rotate, thereby moving the portion of the magnetic strip 1548 being detected by the magnetic position sensor 1546. The magnetic position sensor 1546 detects this change in the magnetic field as the magnetic strip 1548 rotates from each north pole N to each south pole S and vice versa. Since the length L1 of each magnet 1554 is known, the detected changes in the magnetic field between each north pole N and/or each south pole S may be converted into the distance of rotational movement of the rotatable drive component 1552. Thus, the change in position of the rotatable drive component 1552 may be detected. The magnetic position sensor 1546 is also advantageous because it does not contact the rotating drive component 1552 and, therefore, will not experience contact wear due to the rotation of the rotatable drive component 1552.

Referring to FIG. 65, in some embodiments, two magnetic position sensors 1546 may be used to detect the magnetic fields generated by the first magnetic strip 1548 and a second magnetic strip 1556 arranged next to each other around the circumference of the inner surface 1550 of a rotatable drive component 1552. A length L2 of each magnet 1558 of the second magnetic strip 1556 is, in some embodiments, different than the length L1 of the magnets of the first magnetic strip 1548. This difference in length allows for the magnetic position sensors 1546 to sense unique combinations of magnetic field values from the first magnetic strip 1548 and the second magnetic strip 1556 over the circumference of the inner surface 1550. Each unique magnetic field value may correspond to a position of the drive component 1552 and, therefore, absolute position of the drive component 1552 may be detected by the two magnetic position sensors 1546.

In practice, the hand assembly 24, shown in FIG. 1, and particularly, the fingers of the hand assembly 24, i.e. the thumb structure 220, index finger structure 222, middle finger 226, ring finger 228 and pinky finger 230, all shown in FIG. 3, come into contact with objects frequently and, therefore, may be susceptible to wear and damage. Thus, referring to FIG. 66, it may be desirable for the prosthetic hand assembly 1024 to include removable fingers 1560. In this embodiment of the prosthetic hand assembly 1024, the removable fingers 1560 may be removed to allow for easier replacement of damaged fingers 1560 and also, to allow for easily customizable or tailored finger lengths for different user.

Each removable finger 1560 is driven in substantially the same manner as the fingers of the previously discussed embodiments. However, the removable fingers 1560 pivot about a common finger shaft 1562, rather than the individual pivot axles discussed in connection with FIG. 33. In some embodiments, end caps 1564 cover each end of the common finger shaft 1562 to prevent dirt or other contaminants from getting into the gear trains of the hand assembly 1024 and also to ensure that the common finger shaft 1562 does not become axially displaced unintentionally. In operation, either end cap

29

1564 may be removed from the hand assembly 1024 and the common finger shaft 1562 may be extracted to free the removable fingers 1560. Each finger 1560 may then be removed and replaced individually, as required.

As discussed above, the fingers 1560 of the hand assembly 1024 come into contact with objects frequently and are, therefore, susceptible to wear. Thus, referring to FIG. 67, some embodiments of the present invention may include a cosmesis 1566 for covering the hand assembly 1024 to reduce wear of the hand assembly 1024 and the fingers 1560, in particular. The cosmesis 1566 may be formed from silicone or a similar material, such as a urethane, to improve the grip capabilities of the hand assembly 1024 to assist with the various grasping and pinch functions of the hand, thereby, providing additional functionality.

In use, the cosmesis 1566 may wear more quickly around the fingers 1560 and the thumb structure 1220. Therefore, in some embodiments the cosmesis 1566 may separate into two or more sections to allow high wear areas to be replaced more frequently than low wear areas. For instance, referring to FIG. 68A, in some embodiments, the cosmesis 2566 includes a separate palm section 2568 covering the hand support 2218, finger sections 2570 covering each finger 2560 and a thumb section 2572 covering the thumb structure 2220. Thus, the finger sections 2570 and thumb section 2572 may each be replaced separately from the palm section 2568. Although shown as having separate finger sections 2570 and thumb section 2572, in various embodiments, the cosmesis 2566 may also include only two sections, for example, the finger sections 2570 and the thumb section 2572 may be combined into one section and the hand support 2218 may be covered by the separate palm section 2568.

Referring to FIG. 68B, in some embodiments of the present invention, the fingers 3560 may be provided with geometric features 3574, such as slots, in their outer surfaces 3576 that may accept corresponding geometric interlocks 3578 provided on the inner surface 3580 of the cosmesis 3566. This interlocking geometry may resist shear loads on the cosmesis 3566, thereby preventing the cosmesis 3566 from slipping off of the fingers 3560. Additionally, with respect to the hand cosmesis, fine pinch and other functions may require a structural backing at the tips of the fingers 3560 and thumb structure 3220. Therefore, in some embodiments, the geometric features 3574 of the fingers 3560 and thumb structure 3220 may each include a fingernail apparatus 579, shown in FIG. 40. The fingernail apparatus 579, shown in FIG. 40, interacts with the finger and thumb structure cosmesis 3566 to anchor the cosmesis 3566 of the fingers 3560 and thumb structure 3220, thereby mitigating and/or preventing the cosmesis 3566 from rolling over on the tips of the fingers 3560 and thumb structure 3220.

Referring to FIG. 69, the palm section 1568 of the cosmesis 1566 may also be formed to resist slippage due to shear loads. For instance, a palm side 1582 of the cosmesis 1566 may be formed with a tacky inner surface 1584. In some embodiments, the material of the cosmesis 1566 itself will provide the tacky inner surface 1584, for example, silicon or a urethane material may be naturally tacky. In other embodiments, a tacky surface coating may be applied to the cosmesis to form the tacky inner surface 1584. Thus, as objects being held are pressed against the palm side 1582 of the cosmesis 1566, the tacky inner surface 1584 is pressed against the hand support 218, shown in FIG. 29, thereby resisting slippage. In some embodiments, in this embodiment, a back side 1586 of the cosmesis 1566 is formed with a slippery inner surface 1588 to facilitate installation and removal of the cosmesis 1566. For example, the slippery inner surface 1588 may be

30

formed by applying a surface modifying coating to the cosmesis, or applying a surface texture to the cosmesis 1566. For example, to install the cosmesis 1566 onto the hand support 218, shown in FIG. 29, the cosmesis 1566 may be pulled down and away from the palm so that the slippery inner surface 1588 of the back side 1586 slides along the hand support 218, while the tacky inner surface 1584 of the palm side 1582 is pulled away from the hand support 218. Thus, the cosmesis 1566 may be easily slid onto the hand support 218. To remove the cosmesis 1566, the palm side 1582 may again be pulled away from the hand support 218 while the cosmesis 1566 is pulled toward the fingers 1560, thereby allowing the cosmesis 1566 to slide easily off the hand support 218.

Additionally, in some embodiments, the fingers 1560 may include one or more additional functions. For example, referring to FIG. 70, one or more fingers 1560 may include a thermal sensor 1590 disposed thereon to determine the temperature of an object (not shown) brought into contact with the finger 1560. The signal from the sensor 1590 may be transmitted to a controller (not shown) for the prosthetic arm 1010 and displayed to the user as will be discussed in greater detail below. In some embodiments, temperature detection may be provided by forming the cosmesis 1566, or a portion thereof, from a temperature sensitive polymer, such as a polymer with a thermochromic color changing additive therein or thermochromic liquid crystal that allows a variety of colors to be shown as temperature changes, which will change color depending upon the temperature of the cosmesis 1566. For example, the cosmesis 1566 may change from one color to another if a present temperature is exceeded. This temperature sensing functionality may be used to determine the temperature of an object (not shown) in the hand 1024 and to warn the user of a high temperature or low temperature condition to mitigate the threat of burns or other harm.

Referring to FIG. 71, another embodiment of the thumb structure 2222 is shown for providing thumb compliance detection. The thumb structure includes a thumb base 2592 and a thumb tip 2594, which are each substantially rigid and are joined together by an elastomeric spring 2596. In some embodiments, the interface between the thumb tip 2594 and the elastomeric spring 2596 includes one or more alignment features 2598 to ensure proper alignment of the thumb tip 2594 with the elastomeric spring 2596. Similarly, the interface between the thumb base 2592 and the elastomeric spring 2596 also includes one or more alignment features 2598 to ensure proper alignment of the thumb base 2592 and the elastomeric spring 2596.

Referring to FIG. 72, within the thumb structure 2222, the thumb base 2592 includes a pivotal interface tube 2600 extending upward into a central bore 2602 of the elastomeric spring 2596. A pivot shaft 2604, having a magnet 2606 disposed at its lower end 2608, is arranged with the pivotal interface tube 2600 and extends upwardly therefrom into a central bore 2610 in the thumb tip 2594 of substantially the same diameter as the pivot shaft 2604. Below the pivot shaft 2604 within the thumb base 2592 is arranged a Hall effect sensor 2612 on a sensor bracket 2614. The sensor bracket 2614 includes a wire channel 2616 to facilitate wiring the Hall effect sensor 2612 to the prosthetic control circuits (not shown). Referring to FIG. 73, in operation, when a load L is applied to the thumb tip 2594 the elastomeric spring 2596 compresses on the side of the thumb structure 2222 opposite the applied load L, allowing the thumb tip 2594 to tilt. The tilt of the thumb tip 2594 causes a corresponding tilt of the pivot shaft 2604 within the pivotal interface tube 2600, thereby displacing the magnet 2606 disposed on the lower end 2608 of the pivot shaft 2604. The Hall effect sensor 2612 detects

31

this displacement of the magnet **2606**, which can be correlated to the applied load **L** on the thumb tip **2594**. By detecting the various loads on the thumb structure **2222**, the user may ensure that objects are not gripped so hard that they could break and that the thumb is not subjected to loads that could cause failure of the thumb structure **2222**.

Referring to FIG. **74**, in some embodiments, the humeral rotator **1016** may include a yolk **1618**, rather than the cantilever mounting interface shown in FIG. **16**, for interfacing with the elbow flexion assembly **1018**. The yolk **1618**, interfaces with a first side **1620** and a second side **1622** of the elbow flexion assembly **1018** to provide increased strength to the interface when compared to the cantilever mounting interface shown in FIG. **16**, which only interfaces with one side of the elbow flexion assembly **1018**.

Referring to FIG. **75A**, in some embodiments of the present invention, the prosthetic arm **3010** may be provided with a status indicator **3620**. In some embodiments the status indicator **3620** may include, but is not limited to, one or more LEDs **3622** arranged on the hand assembly **3024**. However, in other embodiments, the one or more LEDs **3622** may be located in various locations. The one or more LEDs **3622** may be configured to communicate a variety of information to the user, including, but not limited to, one or more of the following, battery power level, an operational mode of the prosthetic device, faults, alarms, alerts, messages, and/or the like. Additionally, although shown as one or more LEDs **3622** the status indicator **3620** may, in other embodiments, include a digital display and/or user interface, which may be arranged on the prosthetic device **3010**, built into the prosthetic device **3010** and/or may be a separate display unit (for example, as shown in FIG. **75B** as **3630**), and in some embodiments, may be a unit worn similarly to a wrist watch or bracelet as shown in FIG. **75B** as **3630**. However, in other embodiments, the unit **3630** may be a portable unit that may be worn or carried near the user, for example, but not limited to, clipped on clothing, belt and/or attached to the user, and/or carried in a pocket either in the user's clothing and/or in a separate bag and/or pack. In some embodiments, the unit **3630** may be a PDA (personal data assistant), smart phone or other electronic device configured to communicate with the prosthetic device **3010** by way of a wireless communications protocol, including, but not limited to, RF and Bluetooth®.

Thus, in some embodiments, it may be desirable to include both a separate display unit and one or more LEDs **3622**, where, for example, but not limited to, the one or more LEDs **3622** may be used to display one or more critical piece of information to the user, while the separate display unit, **3630** may provide a greater variety of information in more detail.

Still referring to FIG. **75**, in some embodiments of the present invention, the prosthetic arm **3010** may be provided with an emergency switch **3624** which may turn off power to the system and thus engage the various brakes and/or clutches in the prosthetic arm **3010**. In some embodiments, the emergency switch **3624** is a chin switch that the user may activate with their chin.

The prosthetic arm apparatus of the present invention has a variety of benefits over conventional prosthetic devices, such as the modularity of each segment of the prosthetic arm apparatus as discussed above, which allows the formation of customized prosthetic devices for different users. In particular, each segment of the prosthetic arm apparatus **10** contains all of the actuators for that segment so that it may be removed as a separate unit. For instance, the hand assembly includes all of the finger actuators therein, allowing it to be connected and/or removed as a separate unit. Additionally, various

32

degrees of freedom of the hand assembly are particularly beneficial because they allow the formation of various grasps or grips.

Although the invention has been described in the context of a prosthetic arm, an apparatus according to the elements of this invention could be used in other robotic tools, such as those used in manufacturing and/or teleoperations, where an operator is not connected directly to the controlled device. For example the prosthetic arm apparatus may be used for teleoperation in hazardous environments and/or hazardous activities, for the detonation of explosive devices or the like. In these environments, the prosthetic arm apparatus may provide a more intuitive interface for the user since the user will already be familiar with the natural movements of the arm, which may make control translation of the prosthetic arm apparatus easier.

While the principles of the invention have been described herein, it is to be understood by those skilled in the art that this description is made only by way of example and not as a limitation as to the scope of the invention. Other embodiments are contemplated within the scope of the present invention in addition to the exemplary embodiments shown and described herein. Modifications and substitutions by one of ordinary skill in the art are considered to be within the scope of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A prosthetic wrist assembly for imparting fixed path motion to a prosthetic hand assembly, the prosthetic wrist assembly comprising:

an input support structure;

a wrist pivot axle passing through the input support structure and having first and second flattened ends extending outwardly therefrom;

a motor for driving the wrist pivot axle in rotary motion; and

a hand interface for coupling to the prosthetic hand assembly, the hand interface including first and second slider blocks slidably engaging the first and second flattened ends of the wrist pivot axle, respectively, and configured to rotate therewith to rotationally and slidably couple the hand interface to the input support structure, the hand interface including first and second cam bearings having first and second cam profiles formed therein defining a fixed flexion-deviation movement path having a component of flexion about the wrist pivot axle and a component of deviation about a deviation axis that is perpendicular to the wrist pivot axle, and first and second cam followers engaging the first and second cam bearings, respectively, and adapted to move therein as the wrist pivot axle is driven in rotary motion;

wherein rotary motion of the wrist pivot axle drives the hand interface in both rotational and sliding movement to move the hand assembly along the fixed flexion-deviation movement path.

2. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 1, wherein the flattened end portion at each end of the wrist pivot axle extends into the hand interface, and wherein the first and second slider blocks are adapted to attach the hand assembly thereto.

3. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 2 wherein the first and second cam bearings are attached to the input support structure about each end portion of the pivot axle between the respective first or second slider block and the input support structure.

4. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 3 wherein the first and second cam followers are included in the first and second slider blocks, respectively.

33

5. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 1 further comprising wherein the hand assembly is angled away from the wrist pivot axle.

6. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 5 wherein the hand assembly is angled away from the wrist pivot axle approximately 30 degrees.

7. A prosthetic wrist assembly for imparting fixed path motion to a prosthetic hand assembly, the prosthetic wrist assembly comprising:

an input support structure;

first and second cam profiles associated with the input support structure, the first and second cam profiles defining a fixed flexion-deviation movement path;

a hand interface for coupling the prosthetic hand assembly to the prosthetic wrist assembly, the hand interface including first and second cam followers engaging the first and second cam profiles;

a wrist pivot axle pivotally coupled to the input support structure and having first and second flattened ends extending outwardly therefrom to engage the hand interface; and

an actuator for driving the wrist pivot axle in rotary motion relative to the input support structure;

wherein the hand interface includes first and second slider blocks slidably engaging the first and second flattened ends of the wrist pivot axle, respectively, and configured to rotate therewith to rotationally and slidably couple the hand interface to the input support structure; and

wherein rotary motion of the wrist pivot axle drives the hand interface in both rotational and sliding movement as the first and second cam followers move within the first and second cam profiles.

8. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 7, wherein rotary motion of the wrist pivot axle drives the hand interface to move the hand assembly along the fixed flexion-deviation movement path defined by the first and second cam profiles.

9. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 8, wherein the fixed flexion-deviation movement path includes a component of flexion about the wrist pivot axle and a component of deviation about a deviation axis that is perpendicular to the wrist pivot axle.

10. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 7, wherein the flattened end portion at each end of the wrist pivot axle extends into the hand interface, and wherein the first and second slider blocks are adapted to attach the hand assembly thereto.

11. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 10, wherein the first and second cam profiles are formed in first and second cam bearings attached to the input support structure.

12. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 11, wherein each of the first and second cam bearings includes an axle opening, and wherein the first and second cam bearings are attached to the input support structure with each flattened end portion of the pivot axle extending outwardly from the input support structure through the axle opening of one of the first and second cam bearings.

13. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 7, wherein the hand assembly is angled away from the wrist pivot axle.

34

14. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 13, wherein the hand assembly is angled approximately 30 degrees.

15. A prosthetic wrist assembly for imparting fixed path motion to a prosthetic hand assembly, the prosthetic wrist assembly comprising:

an input support structure having a wrist pivot axle passing therethrough, the wrist pivot axle having first and second flattened ends extending outwardly from the input support structure;

a hand interface for coupling the prosthetic hand assembly to the prosthetic wrist assembly, the hand interface including first and second slider blocks slidably engaging the first and second flattened ends of the wrist pivot axle, respectively, to both rotationally and slidably couple the hand interface to the input support structure, first and second cam bearings, each having a cam profile formed therein, and first and second cam followers engaging the cam profiles; and

an actuator for driving the hand interface relative to the input support structure to move the hand assembly in both rotational and sliding movement along a fixed flexion-deviation movement path having a component of flexion about the axis of rotational movement and a component of deviation about a deviation axis that is perpendicular to the axis of rotational movement.

16. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 15, wherein the actuator drives the wrist pivot axle in rotary motion to drive the hand interface.

17. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 16, wherein the flattened end portion at each end of the wrist pivot axle extends into the hand interface; and

wherein the first and second slider blocks are adapted to attach the hand assembly thereto.

18. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 17, wherein the hand assembly is angled away from the wrist pivot axle.

19. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 18, wherein the hand assembly is angled approximately 30 degrees.

20. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 16, wherein the axis of rotational movement is the axis of the wrist pivot axle.

21. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 15, wherein the cam profiles of the first and second cam bearings are associated with the input support structure, the cam profiles defining the fixed flexion-deviation movement path.

22. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 21, wherein the cam followers are included in the first and second slider blocks.

23. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 21, wherein the first and second cam bearings are attached to the input support structure.

24. The prosthetic wrist assembly according to claim 23, wherein the first and second cam bearings are attached to the input support structure about each end portion of the pivot axle between the respective first or second slider block and the input support structure.

\* \* \* \* \*